



# Spreading the Word

## United Presbyterian Church December 2016

### Church Contacts

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### December Highlights

Fortnightly Group - Dec 1  
PW Christmas Tea - Dec 7  
Bell Ringing—Dec 10

Congregational Meeting - Dec 11, 11:30 am  
We do Saturday Kitchen - Dec 24  
Christmas Eve Service - Dec 24, 7 pm  
Christmas Day Service - Dec 25, 10:30 am



## *Upcoming changes to the Worship Schedule*

*Please join us...*

*Sunday, December 4 - communion at 10:30 service*

*Saturday, December 24, 7 pm - Christmas Eve service*

*No late night service*

*Sunday, December 25, 10:30 Carol sing*

*No early chapel service*

*No 5 pm CROSSing*

*Sunday, January 1, 10:30 service*

*No early chapel service*

*No 5 pm CROSSing*

*Sunday, January 8 - communion*



### Mission Opportunities for Christmas

The Mission Team is organizing several opportunities for our church family for the Advent season. These are chances to share the love of God and the joy of the season with others, perhaps brightening our own Christmas celebration as well.

- HACAP Christmas families - If you are interested in purchasing gifts for a local family in need please speak with Karen Dillon. Families of different sizes are available and their shopping lists have been prepared. Lots of details are available.
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing - We have signed up for all shifts on December 10th at the local Walmart. Shifts are 1 hour in length. A sign-up sheet will be on the kitchen counter. Please check your calendar, find a friend to join you and sign up soon. This is a very fun opportunity for all ages! You can even sing carols to people passing by!
- The Alternative Christmas and All-New Christmas Market will be open on Dec. 4th and Dec. 11th. This is a chance to purchase an item for someone else or make a donation in someone's name. All funds raised will support local and international Mission Organizations. HACAP and Heifer will be the donation organizations and items from 10,000 Villages will be available for sale at our tables.
- The December Mitten Tree will be waiting for your donations on its branches. All hats, gloves, mittens and scarves will be given to those students in need at Head Start, Kingdom Kids, and at Stewart and Lincoln Elementary.

We certainly hope you will consider one or all of the above chances to help someone less fortunate to celebrate this Christmas, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



## From the Music Director...

When we were children, we always looked forward to upcoming holidays with great anticipation, as children should. Getting together at the holidays was such fun. There were cousins to run and play with. The kitchen was filled with the aroma of good things to come. There was always great food on the table on the holiday itself, and great leftovers in the refrigerator for a few days afterward.

As we get older, we sometimes lose the fun, the anticipation, the joy of holidays. Maybe it's because we've lived through so many of them (and that's a good thing!). Maybe it's because our lives have changed in ways that alter how we see those once exciting celebrations.

Advent is a time to ponder these kinds of things. It's a time to take inventory of our holiday activities, thoughts, emotions and values. It's a time to give ourselves permission to again enjoy the great anticipation of the coming birth of Jesus. It's a time to love more, give more, hope more.

Our congregation is going through a time of change. For some this is exciting to see what our church will look like on the other side of change. Others will reflect on where our church has been in the past. The birth of Jesus was the most significant change humankind has ever experienced. And no matter how we as a congregation change over the next few months, we will still celebrate Christ coming to this world to save us all. We will still honor God in all we do. We will still live together with the great hope Jesus instilled deep within us. And we will still anticipate His coming for us again.....together.

So the children have it right. There's nothing better than anticipating Christmas, the birth of our King. I wish for you all an Advent of great and wonderful anticipation.

## Christmas Program

Mark your calendars now for a memorable Christmas program presented by the youth of **the church**. "Come to the Manger" is an engaging and memorable program with meaningful words and traditional music.

Join us in the Sanctuary December 18th for the 10:30 service. Its guaranteed to put a smile on your face and remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.



Thank you, thank you, thank you members of the United Presbyterian Church for allowing the American Association of University Women to host the 2016 Washington High School National Honor Society Reception and AAUW Education Award Presentation in the church Fellowship Hall on the evening of Nov. 15th.

It was a very special evening for the students and their parents and our award recipients, Nancy Adrian, coordinator, and attending board members of the ISU Washington County Outreach and Extension Staff.

Fellowship Hall is just perfect for our event. The staff at the church **couldn't have been more helpful and gracious**, and we extend a very special thank you to Butch for his assistance.

We have so appreciated being able to use your facilities over the years and we thank you for sharing them with us again this fall.

~ Grateful Members of the Washington Iowa Branch of AAUW

**"Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to celebrate my 90th birthday and made it so special." Wilma Wright**



Marie Dare  
11/5/16

## The Read & Feed Book Club

Thursday, December 15, 2016,  
11:45 am in the Church Library  
and review a Christmas  
book of choice



## SON CITY



Unit 4 "Christ Monograms" will be covered December 4th, 11th & 18th and is a little break from our traditional four room rotation. Teachers for the upcoming unit are: Kori Rich, Tanya Stalder and Jane Cuddeback. The CE Team is thankful to the teachers and leaders of Unit 3; they have done a great job teaching the kids about God's Love for each and everyone of us.



## Youth News ...

### INSIDE OUT - December 4, 11 & 18

Meet at our usual meeting time. If there is snow, we might go sledding.

December 18th is our Christmas party.

### CREW - December 4 & 18

Crew will meet at church from 3:30 to 5:00 on December 4th and we will be making a craft as well as other group activities. The craft will be brought to the UP home when we go on the 18th. We will meet at the UP church both days in December and will take the vans when going to the UP home. Please also bring a pan of baked goods to share on the 18th when we visit residents. See you then!



- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Linda Boston      | 22 William Guenther  |
| 2 Nick Shelman      | 24 Dyann Graber      |
| 2 Phyllis VanGerpen | 24 Cyrus Graber      |
| 3 Marcus Henry      | 24 Ian Maize         |
| 3 Henry Tompkins    | 24 Sue Reed          |
| 5 Emma Alderton     | 25 Zoë Kane          |
| 5 Jim Buitendorp    | 26 Kylee Porter      |
| 7 Lois Holland      | 26 Erin Thorius      |
| 9 Rachel Sands      | 26 Colton Twinam     |
| 10 Blaine Rees      | 27 Austin Knupp      |
| 12 Esther Hess      | 27 Arnold Waring     |
| 12 Barry Johnson    | 28 Alecia Goff       |
| 13 Lisa Buitendorp  | 28 Cate Schiefer     |
| 15 Nate Conrad      | 29 Dorothy Yoder     |
| 15 Alicia Mackey    | 30 Beckett Miller    |
| 15 Harry Rader      | 30 Gary Pump         |
| 16 Kaitlin Buchholz | 30 Emory VanGerpen   |
| 16 Leonard Goeke    | 30 Lorraine Williams |
| 18 Kristin Schell   | 31 Ada Kleese        |
| 19 Kevin Janecek    | 31 Jayse Thorius     |
| 19 Jamie Rich       |                      |
| 20 Chayse Jaspering |                      |
| 20 Sarah Robison    |                      |
| 21 Joe McConnell    |                      |

## Happy Birthday!



## KIDS CAMP

Kids Camp will continue with a mini-camp on December 14th from 1:20 to 4:00 pm (an early out day for school). All 1st—6th graders are invited to join in!



## Presbyterian Women

Circle 3 Dec 13, 9:30am, Lounge  
Lesson #3: Marilyn Johnston  
Devotions: Pat Johnson

Circle 4 Dec 14, 9:15 am  
UP Home, Campbell Room  
Hostess: Everyone  
Study & Devotions: Everyone



What a fun, fun time was had by all at the very first UP Church Movie Night!! There were kids wearing jammies with sleeping bags lined up here and there, all just part of the fun. There was popcorn to eat, as well as other yummy treats and drinks to enjoy. And, for sure, there were giggles and laughter and smiles all around - movie night was a memory maker! Stay tuned to hear about the next one . . . you won't want to miss it!



Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

## STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE

*“Let us love one another because love comes from God.”*  
1 John 4:7

Scripture reminds us that our love for God has to be lived out in some practical way in the world around us. Giving

**to the work of the church fulfills God’s desire that we serve others with the gifts we’ve been given.**

Your financial commitment makes it possible not only to pay the electric bills and keep the building where we meet in working order, it allows us all to engage in many kinds of ministry - teaching our children, feeding the hungry, comforting those who mourn, serving the poor **and providing a place to pray, worship and hear God’s Word.**

Please prayerfully consider how you want to participate in the life and ministry of this church. Thank you for your **generosity and Commitment to the work of Christ’s church.**

Bonnie Bannister is offering to teach a class about Biblical prophecy. The time of the class depends on the availability of those who are interested. If you would like to be a part of such a class, or have questions, call the church office or contact Bonnie direct at 319-461-1019.

### Saturday Kitchen Thanks

On Oct. 29, 2016 our Saturday Kitchen crew was joined by ten 6th graders! The boys arrived first, put up tables and chairs; set placemats, napkins and silverware; and **“manned” the drink table. They served some of our very** early guests, those who come for coffee and to visit before eating their meal. The girls came after basketball practice and helped with serving and cleaning up. All the kids were super and they each saw first-hand what a wonderful Christian outreach the Saturday Kitchen is to those in our community who are hungry for food and for fellowship. The kids, like all of us who help with Saturday Kitchen, were blessed with the opportunity to serve God and let His love shine through our actions. 110 meals were served, & 30 takeouts, maybe a record!

We thank those who prepared brownies, helped serve the meal, or helped in any other way. God bless you all!  
~ Joe and Marde McConnell

## Church Family News . . . just so you know!

The Deacons would like to thank Mary Atwood, Diana Henry, Kathy Hunt, Janet Kaufman, Ron Kaufman and Terry Mangold for delivering Meals on Wheels during the month of November.

WHS students and church family members Michael Dillon and Meredith Raber were in the high school play on the stage of the new Performing Arts Center. Thanks for your practice & great performances, Meredith & Michael.

A HUGE Congratulations to Ally and Bailey Rees and Alecia Goff for their selections to the OPUS Honor Choir for Middle School students. Wow - what an honor!

Thanks to the gals who organized the very first and very fun, movie night: Heather Anderson, April Cuddeback, Katie Lujan, Erin Thorius, and Diana Rich.

Some of you may have noticed that some outside yard work was done, arrangements made for this by a couple of people in our church family. It will be exciting to see some of the new, attractive, replacement plantings next spring!

Some church volunteers worked in the Kingdom Kids playground area recently and they added wood chips, cut roots, trimmed trees AND added sand and a cover to the sandbox. Special thanks are given to Roger, Brenda, Jacob and Sarah Miles; Vivian and Griff Griffith; Karen and Tim Trotman; and Scott Lujan.

A special thank you for Griff Griffith who built wooden platforms for the sheds in the play area. He also used his carpentry skills in adding a railing to the choir room, basement, tunnel entrance. Thanks, Griff!