



Spreading the Word

United Presbyterian Church March 2017

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Potato Bar Entertainers

March Highlights

Ash Wednesday - March 1
World Day of Prayer - March 3
Saturday Kitchen (our turn) - March 11

Daylight Savings starts - March 12
Meals on Wheels (our turn) - March 13-31
Sewing Circle - March 20
Mission Market - March 26



It seems like a good time to update you all on several things.

Staffing – Our hope is to be able to keep *Margie* around until the end of March / first part of April. (I think she should stay to celebrate Easter with us. ☺ What do you think?) Her position has been posted and advertised locally and through the Corridor Careers site, with a deadline of the end of February for applications. There is a group (Anne Youngman, Mary Lou Saforek, Diana Rich, Kay Hall, Andy McCall & Rhonda Shelman) who will be looking at applications and conducting interviews.

The CE Search Team (Karen Dillion, Erin Thorius, Heather Anderson, John Dillion, Jamie Rich, Melissa Kaufman & Meredith Raber) have been working to fill the Youth and Christian Education Director position. **They’ve received and evaluated many applications, given 4-5 interviews and have two candidates that are in second round interviews. We’re getting close!**

Thanks to both groups for their work on these positions.

The Sanctuary Project – We needed to put this project on hold when Bob told us he was leaving, in order to say goodbye and do the necessary things to transition. In the last month we have reviewed the project to see where things are. Butch and I met with Matt of Eyes and Ears (formally Douglas Communication) to reassess the cost since it has been well over a year since the initial cost projections. Matt and Rick Loula are reviewing the proposals and will be getting back to us with new cost estimates.

The Session approved paying a second installment of \$3000 to finish the design portion of the proposal, which will help pin down the cost. We also looked at the fundraising to see how it was coming along. (The preliminary numbers look very encouraging with over 100,000 in what **has been given and pledged thus far.**) **I don’t mean to be vague with the numbers but want to make sure that we have things correct before sharing this information.** My hope is that we will be getting more details out to the congregation by the end of March.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) – The Session discussed this last week at their meeting, and decided that it would be best to wait a while before forming our PNC. The Session wants to take some time now to work through reevaluating where we are headed as a church and how we will get there. This process will involve not only some work on the part of the Session but will include the Congregation as well. In the past the PNC has done what was called a Mission Study, and this process will take the place of that. I know that you are anxious for your new pastor to come but please be patient with us as we work through a few things with you.

In gratitude for you, your faith and your witness,
Pastor Bill

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and concerns for my health over the past two months. I appreciate your prayers as I continue to heal.

May God protect and bless all of you.

Janice Twinam



Connect with us on Facebook:

“Washington United Presbyterian Church”

“The CROSSing Washington, Iowa”

“Kingdom Kids Preschool Washington Iowa”

MISSION MARKET

Please plan to join Inside Out (our high schoolers) Sunday, March 26 after 10:30 worship service for a meal, some good company, and auction.

This is a major fundraiser for their summer mission work. Hope to see you there!



From the Music Director....

A few days ago, when the temperature began to stray away from winter for a couple days, I went for a walk around my neighborhood. Along the way I saw several people out enjoying the warmer temperature, as was I. But one little boy caught my attention. He's a child who lives just a few houses away from my house. I've watched him grow since he was born.

He and his grandpa walk along the street often. With the weather change that day there was a family with a fire burning in a backyard pit. They had music playing loudly as they sat around the fire and talked. Approaching the music, the little boy began to dance to the song. I'm sure you've heard the phrase, "dance like nobody's watching". That perfectly described the little boy as he experienced and responded to the music.

Proper decorum and reckless abandon are two things we don't often use in the same sentence. We often choose one over the other. On Saturday, we go to a football game, and in the excitement of a brilliant gain of yardage we respond by wave our hands and shouting phrases that, at the moment, seem totally inspired. Then on Sunday, we go to the Presbyterian Church and respond to God's great glory by sitting or standing.... quietly..... in one place..... hands at our sides..... with proper Presbyterian decorum.

How exciting would the football game be and how inspired would the team feel if all 60,000 people in attendance responded to the great plays of the game with proper Presbyterian decorum..... sitting or standing in place.... quietly? And how exciting would worship be if we responded to God's greatness and His creation and all His glory and His work in our lives with inspired shouts of acclamation, lifting and waving our hands and dancing and applauding God with total abandon.... like no one was watching? How honored would God be at this uncontrollable outbreak of praise and worship directed at Him?

I think God would be greatly honored. I think He would shower blessings upon our congregation..... and dance with us!

There's a recent song that comes to mind by United Pursuit. The lyric says:

*You're full of life now
And full of passion
That's how He made you
Just let it happen*

Let's tailgate before worship this Sunday!
Butch



Circle 3 March 14, 9:30 am
Lesson #6: Phyllis Van Gerpen
Devotions: Betty Colby

Circle 4 March 8, 9:15 am
UP Home, Campbell Room
Hostess: Kay Hall
Study: Esther Bordwell
Devotions: Betty Beenblossom



The Read & Feed Book Club

will next meet on
Thursday, March 16,
at 11:45 am in the
Church Library.



Youth News ...

INSIDE OUT -

For Youth in grades 9-12
Regular Meetings, Sundays at 6:30 pm.
Bring a friend and share the fun!

March 26th - Mission Market

This is our BIG fundraiser for the mission trip. We need everyone to do their part!

CREW -

For youth in grades 6-8.

We will continue to meet for CREW as planned on our original schedule; March 5 and March 19, from 3:30 - 5:00 pm.

Thank you to everyone that was willing to fill up their adoption fundraiser can!

We hope to get out and about this spring to doing some work in our community. More details to come later!

~ Janet, Nate, Brad & Amy



Unit 7: "Fruits of The Spirit" will be March February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

This should be another fun month as our High School Class helps teach the kids about love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We are grateful for our older youth being willing to help teach our younger kids about what it means to be a Christian.

Thanks again to Kori Rich, Marde McConnell, the Rabers and Conklins for teaching our kids about God's Greatest Commandments.

Daylight Savings
Time starts Sunday,
March 12th.

**Don't forget to set
your clocks ahead
one hour!**



The Kingdom Kids have been enjoying the outdoors as it feels like spring is here. But as you know, it is Iowa. Next week it could be snowing.



February and March seem to be the "awe-ha" months in preschool. Progress is so visible in letter/sound connections, recognizing complex patterns, counting, problem solving, social skills Children (as well as teachers) are so excited when that lightbulb goes on and they make a connection.

It is also time to begin registering children for next fall. We will again accept children who turn 4 before the end of December or younger with teacher approval. Statewide Voluntary preschool will continue to fund children who are 4 years old by Sept. 15, 2017. Three year old tuition will again be \$100 per month, or \$900 per year. Scholarships are available if needed.

We will participate with other local sites, in a preschool information night to be held at St. James School - Tobin Hall, on March 30, from 5:30-6:30 pm. This is a great way for families to learn about different options for preschool in Washington.

If you have a preschool aged child or know someone who does, please remember that four year olds attend tuition FREE. We would like to be sure that all children are served.

If you have questions, please contact Brenda Miles at 319-461-4327.

Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, March 1st 6:30 pm

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a season of intentional reflection and preparation for living as Easter People.

This Ash Wednesday will have us looking forward to Easter and invite us, through the imposition of ashes, to remember our own mortality and the promise of eternal life.

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!



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.



Many Thanks to our U.P. Church Family



The 2017 Potato Bar Fund Raiser was a HUGE SUCCESS! I think everyone would agree they had a VERY FUN TIME and, additionally . . . over \$900 was raised for *Team U.P. and Friends* to contribute to the 2017 American Cancer Society **Washington County Relay for Life!** Thanks to all those who helped with the “food part” of the event – everything was delicious!

Master of Ceremonies, Terry Anderson, started the talent portion with a cute skit **between Scott Lujan and himself.** And then . . . “UPC’s Got Talent” began. We had everything from joke telling to singing, to piano and instrument playing to even some “Donald Duck talking” too! We want to thank all the wonderful and talented young kids of our church family who provided us with such special and enjoyable entertainment. No doubt about it, the kids were terrific!! Thanks again to Terry Anderson for once again doing a fabulous job introducing our entertainers and putting them so at ease.

Anyone interested in learning more about Team UP and Friends and the June 24, 2017 Relay for Life event, please contact Ann Conklin (653-1898) or Marde McConnell (653-3884).





- 1 Gabriel Bruns
- 1 Jack Carter
- 1 Kaelyn Johnson
- 3 Jean Wollenberg
- 3 Jim Wood
- 4 Sophia Kleese
- 4 Isabella Lujan
- 4 Susan Rich
- 4 Butch Zwicky
- 5 Kiki Bruner
- 5 Sid Graber
- 5 Tom Hunt
- 6 Miranda Schuster
- 6 Spencer Woods
- 7 Angie Schluetter
- 7 Bob Wollenberg
- 7 Jordan Youngman
- 8 Phil Morris
- 9 Virginia Bordwell
- 10 Cayten Coakley
- 10 Stephanie Leiphart
- 11 Megan Eaton
- 11 Hayley Newlon
- 11 Virginia Smith
- 11 Donna Wheelan
- 12 Debra Helmick
- 12 Trevor Martin

- 12 Traci Stewart
- 13 Matteo Hernandez
- 13 Jacob Miles
- 15 Lila DePenning
- 15 Zander Martin
- 16 Grant Sobaski
- 16 Lance Sobaski
- 19 Teag Miller
- 21 Bernice Fehr
- 21 Mildred Houseal
- 22 Sandra Krotz
- 22 Marde McConnell
- 22 Daniel Rodgers
- 22 Russ Woods
- 23 Sam Hall
- 23 Maci Williams
- 24 Birch Holden
- 25 Judy Murphy
- 26 Leland Saforek
- 27 Gailia Garland
- 27 Roger Miles
- 28 Brenda Miles
- 28 Alec Schiefer
- 30 Kinston Ross
- 31 Alice Edgin
- 31 Alex Pim



Articles for the April newsletter are due Thursday, March 16

Church Family News . . . just so you know!

Thanks to the Pathfinders Sunday School Class for graciously hosting the Saturday Kitchen on February 11th. The numbers were up so they were busy!!

Did you know that Kathy Hunt and Jane Cuddeback are the regular babysitters for the **Tuesday morning Mom's group** and that **Julie Zahs** sometimes is called in to sub? There may be others who help . . . thanks to all for reaching out to these young moms and their little ones!

Jerry Flory used his carpentry skills on the water fountain stool in Fellowship Hall. Now the little kiddos can stand on the stool to get a drink and NOT fall off. MANY thanks, Jerry.

Trivia Night is coming up March 3, an event to raise funds to help the Andersons bring home their little guy from China. Thanks for organizing the event April Cuddeback, Katie Lujan, Diana Rich and Erin Thorius. It will be a fun evening and a great way for our church family and others to reach out in love to the Andersons.

Thanks to all those who have so seamlessly kept Son City going without a CE Director. **The kids are continuing to learn about God's love**, memorizing their verses and having a good time! Thanks CE Team and all the others who have worked so hard for the kids and youth of our church.

If you'd like to thank someone, feel free to submit the details to the church office!

