



Spreading the Word

United Presbyterian Church November 2017

www.upcwash.org

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Stewardship



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November Highlights

- 5- Daylight Savings Time/Communion
- 7- City Elections/Lions Pancake Dinner
- 8- Confirmation Meeting
- 11- Veterans Day/We do Saturday Kitchen!
- 14- National Honor Society Banquet

- 15- Session
- 16- Book Club
- 21- Finance
- 22- Inside Out Soup Supper
- 23- Thanksgiving
- Weeks of 13th, 20th, 27th-Meals on Wheels



The comic strip Mutts is at times repetitive. The same words published day after day with a new illustration bringing to life those words. For Patrick McDonnell, Mutts creator, this is especially true at Thanksgiving time. The quotes he finds are simple and profound:

“If the only prayer you say in your life is thank you, that would suffice.”

Meister Eckhart

“God gave you the gift of 84,600 seconds today. Have you used one to say “thank you”?”

William A. Ward

During the sermon series on Stewardship we all were reminded that stewardship is about remembering and then responding. We remembered that we are loved by God, invited to be a part of God’s family in Christ, given new starts when we make mistakes, and given the gift of life. Thanksgiving is an appropriate response to what God has given us.

“Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action.” W.J. Cameron says and McDonnell reminds us.

In this season of giving thanks I hope you take time often to remember how God has been at work in your life and then to act.

Stewardship comes out of our gratitude for what God has done and calls us to action, to be involved in the life of the church, to invest our time, talents, and financial support of UPC’s mission and ministry.

In gratitude for each of you, Pastor Bill



Pastor Bill will be gone on vacation from November 23-29.

If you have a pastoral care need please call Pastor Herb at 319-653-4736



Articles for the **December** newsletter are due **Tuesday, November 21st**

Thanks to those of you who ‘picked a pumpkin’ and have sent something to one of our college-aged students! These young adults are in the middle of a very important time in their lives and being reminded that God and people at their home church care for them is a comfort and support to each one. There will be several more opportunities in this year to reach out to them or feel free to do that on your own. The list of

addresses available in the office. Bless you for your thoughtfulness.





From the Music Director...

As we go through our lives each and every day, we find ourselves faced with decisions almost every step of the way. Most of these decisions are the kind of thing we do all the time. Things like, “Tomorrow is Saturday. How about we go into the city for lunch and shopping?” Seems like a simple enough proposal, doesn’t it? And on the surface, it’s pretty much a no brainer. But with every decision we make there are two polar elements involved. There is an assessment of opportunity and an assessment of risk.

OPPORTUNITY. By going to the city, we can enjoy different scenery from the grind of everyday life. We can enjoy the well-prepared food of a really nice restaurant. We can handle all our shopping needs in one outing at the mall. Sounds like a fun day, doesn’t it?

RISK. By going to the city, we encounter the possibility of the car breaking down, a flat tire, so many cars on the roadway, and way too many people that we don’t know and can’t trust. And we might spend too much money.

While this is a simplistic illustration, we all make decisions in our lives and within our families that involve both opportunity and risk. And as a person or as a family, we either consciously or unconsciously decide which kind of person or family we are when it comes to decision making.

I believe how we go about decision-making within our church family is much the same. While there is a certain amount of risk involved in every decision we make, there is also the possibility of great and fulfilling opportunity. It’s easy to become paralyzed between risk and opportunity. It’s easy to give up the ability to move the church forward. But in so doing, we run the huge risk of not preparing the church for future generations.

This congregation is very important to all of us, or we wouldn’t be here. May we live and work together to prepare UPC for future generations. And may everything we do help to make the church as important to them as it is to us.



Upcoming Changes to the Worship Schedule

Please Join Us....

Sunday, December 10th- Children’s Program@10:30

Sunday, December 17th– Choir@10:30

Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve:

No early service

10:30am service– 4th Sunday of Advent (informal and shorter)

7:00pm Christmas Eve service

Sunday, December 31st New Years Eve:

Regular services at 8am and 10:30am





From the Director of Youth



Youth News ...

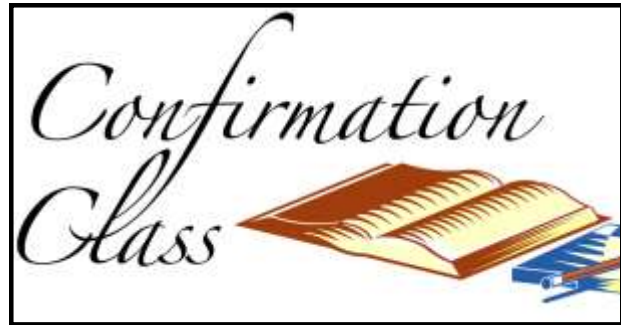
Confirmation is underway. We have 10 students going through confirmation who will be meeting here at the church on early-out Wednesdays throughout the year while also individually meeting with their mentors a dozen or more times. Please keep our Confirmands and Mentors in your prayers as they embark upon this journey together. These individuals are listed below:

Confirmands

Sydney Cuddeback
Sophia Kleese
Dawson Schluetter
Drake Schluetter
Jack Strabala
Kaitlyn Mitchell
Alexa Mitchell
Kiki Guo Bruner
Roy Carter
Gabby Anderson

Mentors

Megan Schiebel
Teresa Anderson
Tracy Strabala
Krista Gaal
Scott Lujan
Ericka Raber
Christy Buchholz
Emily Burroughs
Jeff Cuddeback
Julie Johnson



INSIDE OUT

(Senior High Ministry)

- Nov. 5th: 1pm @ UP Church - then out to rake leaves in the community
- Nov. 12th: 6:30pm @ UP Church
- Nov. 19th: 6:30pm @ UP Church - prep for Soup Supper
- Nov. 22nd: Soup Supper*
- Nov. 26th: 6:30pm @ UP Church



Inside Out will be raking leaves on Sunday November 5th, if you know of someone that might need their leaves rakes please contact Jared

(upwashyouth@gmail.com)



*We will again be hosting the Soup Supper on Wednesday Nov. 22. This is a great opportunity to get out of the kitchen yourself and enjoy some home-cooked soup and warm fellowship as you prepare for Thanksgiving. With the unprecedented year of natural disasters in the U.S., the youth have decided to donate all profits to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance as they respond in this great time of need.



SON CITY



In November we will be starting Unit 3, which is a study of Psalm 100. Be on the look-out for fruits of the students efforts in the Fellowship Hall during the month of November. Thank you for all of the Teachers, Coordinators, and Guides that have helped lead Units 1 & 2. The children at the church have truly been blessed by your leadership.

CREW

(Middle School Ministry)

Nov. 5th – Meet at the church at 3:30pm and then go to HACAP to help box food.

Nov. 19th – Meet at the church at 3:30pm.

Thank you for all of the support at our Diner Drive-In in October. It was a beautiful evening, we had a great time, the food was delicious, and we raised money for upcoming Crew events and missions.

The Kingdom Kids



The Kingdom Kids have been busy exploring the changes that come with Autumn: apples, pumpkins, scarecrows, colored leaves, Harvest and Halloween. We guided our parents around the room for open house in October, and have visited the fire station and public library as field trips. In November we will continue to learn about harvest and explore what it might have been like to live many years ago. Thanksgiving is coming right up as well as conferences. Again a special thank you to all who helped improve our playground. We have loved being out in nature with lots to do. Please continue to pray for our children, families, and staff.



Volunteers Needed!

There are still a few slots open for nursery volunteers during the 10:30am Worship Service. See Jared or check out the schedule outside the nursery if you are interested.

Landscaping News:

(from the Property and Welcome Teams)

The fall landscaping projects are complete and what a “welcoming” improvement has been made. Trees were trimmed, dying trees and plants were removed and new trees, shrubs and flowers have been planted – thanks to volunteers like Jim Cuddeback, Joe Wright, Scott Lujan, Dave, Billie, and Gabe Bruns, and Joe and Marde McConnell. Landscape designer, Tammy Yoder of Kalona, made recommendations on plant removals and replanting and created a design for the area south of the Fellowship Hall.

Trees in the Kingdom Kids playground were trimmed- thanks to the Washington Tree Committee- more specifically Rick Wagenknecht. Terry Mangold and Layne Twinam graciously loaded their pickups with some of the branches and debris, too.

In closing, thank you to so many of you for all your positive comments and excitement about the many lovely, outdoor, landscaping improvements.



Family Movie Night

Please join us for our 2nd annual Family Movie Night at UPC on Friday, November 10th at 7pm.

We will be showing the movie “The Parent Trap” in the fellowship hall, so put on your pj’s, grab a blanket and a pillow (or camp chair if you prefer), and settle down to watch a great flick with friends and family.

Once again we will have popcorn, candy, and drinks available. What a great way to spend a cold November Friday night!!



Daylight Savings is Sunday, November 5th!



The Church will be closed Thursday, November 23rd in observance of Thanksgiving.

STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT

We on the Stewardship Team are excited and passionate about our church and the many ways our church family reaches out by: loving God and loving others. We know you are, too! We hope that by now you have received our mailing. If not, please contact the church office or a Stewardship team member.

We're asking everyone to "Give and Give Generously." We're hoping all our church family members will step up and consider raising their pledge by 10%. This increased funding is necessary to enable us to serve God and to meet the needs of our proposed 2018 budget.

Our recent Stewardship Potluck was very well-attended and everyone enjoyed our time of fellowship. We know everyone agrees that our church and our faith are true blessings in our lives.

Please mail in your pledge card, drop it off at the church office or try to bring it to the Nov. 5th worship service. We need your help to fulfill the mission work of our church and to help us share God's love with those near and far.

Stewardship Team: Joe McConnell (chair), Randy Fehr, Kevin Caldwell, Beth Dillon, Ann Youngman, Julie Johnson, Mary Saforek, Sandy Dunlap and Steve Liebe



the saturday kitchen

taste and see that the Lord is good!

The Saturday Kitchen continues to be a very well-attended, Christian outreach to individuals in Washington and nearby towns, both for hosts and guests. The free meal is an opportunity for fellowship and food and is greatly appreciated by our guests. And the host churches and other participating groups enjoy their fellowship too, and are grateful to be able to reach out in caring to others in our community.

Having contacted all the 2017 hosts about their 2018 participating, we're thrilled to report the positive, enthusiastic responses from each host group and we have some new hosts, too! However, things are not yet finalized . . . specifics later.

Our UPC will be hosts once again on Saturday, November 11th! If you've never helped in the past, please consider – you'll be glad you did. Some from our church family come for just an hour or so and some come for the morning. You could help with brownie making, set-up, food prep, serving or cleanup – it's your choice! For more information call Joe or Marde McConnell (653-3884) or Jess at the church office (653-6588).

Just so you know...

BUDGET UPDATE

As the year comes to a close we want you to know that our projected income has fallen behind what we anticipated it to be. We are currently at 69% for the year and we were projected to be at 75%.

Please be mindful of this when you are making your offerings and completing your pledge.

Thank you- Finance Team

MISSION NEWS

Saturday Oct 21 a crew of 13 headed to Hills again to help Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity construct affordable homes for two families. The homes are tentatively scheduled for completion before Christmas. What can Habitat do with 13 in 4 hours? A lot!

- ..hang doors
- ..paint doors & trim
- ..install door knobs, trim, stops
- ..install cabinet doors, shelves
- ..sand, stain, varnish trim
- ..water sod
- ..clear, sweep walks and porches
- ..sweep and clean sight
- ..recycle boxes

And I'll bet I missed a few jobs too! Thanks to all who were able to work!



Helping Hands Key Points

Habitat for Humanity is concerned with the following issues regarding seniors and housing:

- Repairs are often expensive and require a lot of money at the time the repair is completed. Consequently, low-income seniors are often unable to pay for even modest repairs that would make their homes safer.
- Seniors often don't have a family member or friend that will help them ensure the work is done well and at a fair price. This often leaves seniors vulnerable to scams and poor quality work.

To address these concerns Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity has expanded its Helping Hands program. Under the program, Habitat for Humanity will oversee home repair projects for low-income seniors and physically handicapped homeowners.

To keep repairs affordable, Habitat for Humanity offers a zero-interest loan and will not make a profit on the repair. Each loan repayment plan is designed according to what the homeowner can afford.

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian organization. It has a strong reputation and is known for service to the community.

Quote: " We believe that each person deserves to live in safe, decent, affordable shelter. This program is designed to ensure that seniors and physically disabled homeowners are able to do so."

For an application or more information, contact Scott Hawes at (319)337-8949 or email at scott@iowavalleyhabitat.org



There has been so many natural disasters in our world lately that the mission committee has decided that the Thanks offering that will be collected on November 19 will be donated to PDA. They go in and assist those in need long after other agencies have left the areas. They bring financial blessing to others along with praying for God presence on behalf of disaster survivors. Please give generously.



"LOOKING AHEAD"

Our annual Christmas Market will once again feature items from 10,000 Villages plus an opportunity to make a donation to one of 3 projects we support. Plan now to do some 'shopping' Dec 3 through Dec.10th!! Details are coming!

Session Update

Something you may not be aware of is that before each session meeting starts there is a time of devotion, offered by a different member each month, and a prayer offered.

This reminds each one that they are to be guided by the Holy Spirit in doing the work of the Lord. I hope that the congregation keeps the session members in their prayers.

The Presbyterians Today magazine for October reminds us that on October 31 we can celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Castle church in Germany. It states, "His list of questions and propositions sparked the Protestant Reformation. The event inspired thousands to rethink their relationships with God and the church, including the founders of the Presbyterian Church." The article concludes with "the issues of refugees, worship, social justice and changing communication fueled the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago and are challenging us today. We Presbyterians exist in an imperfect school of Christ. But we exist here through the grace and mercy of our sovereign God, who has chosen us and called us to serve in new and always reforming ways."

The article is by Beth Shalom Hessel, executive director of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia and associate stated clerk in the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (USA). The magazine is available in the church library if you want to read this interesting article.

So we see change is nothing new to the Presbyterian Church and who knows where the Lord will lead us next.

I urge each one of the congregation to stay informed of the exciting happenings in the church by reading the monthly newsletter, looking at the web site, and the best way of all is to become involved yourself.

Kay Hall, clerk



The Feed & Read Book Club will next meet on **Thursday November, 16** at 11:45 am in the Church Library.

Lost & Found Update

The 1st 2 weeks of November (Nov. 1-15) all misc. items from around the church will be on display in Fellowship Hall. Please check out these items and take what's yours. Any unclaimed items after the 15th will be donated to Good Will. It's time for these "lost" items to have a home!



Our church will be in charge of delivering Meals on Wheels November 13-December 1. If you would like to brighten someone's day by delivering a hot meal to them, please contact Kathy Hunt 653-6379. No dishwashing is involved!



Connect with us on Facebook:

"Washington United Presbyterian Church"

"The CROSSing Washington, Iowa"

"Kingdom Kids Preschool Washington Iowa"

Church Family News . . . just so you know!

(Feel free to turn in your “good news” into Jessica!)

13 members of our church family recently traveled to Hills to work on a Habitat for Humanity home. There were high schoolers to seniors and those in between – all who had fun getting to know one another better and who together worked in service to others. Some of us were more skilled than others but there was a job for everyone – each reaching out in God’s love and caring to those in need. Thank you to Sue and Nick Reed for coordinating this Mission Team Project.

Thank you to those who have begun the lovely transformation of our nursery classroom: Diana Rich, Erin Thorius, Heather Anderson, Scott Lujan and others???. The transformation is still a work in progress; however, check out the all the fabulous updates already made: new flooring and new paint color! (By the way, the former Twenty Something group is providing the funding for this project.)

Jean Wells has retired from her position of coordinating the greeters for the 10:30 worship service. After more than ten or fifteen years, we greatly thank Jean for her commitment and dedication and for a “job VERY well done.” It will be hard to replace Jean but the Welcome Team is trying!

Someone has been kindly been leaving daily treats for our sanctuary workers. How thoughtful to be sharing goodies for these strangers each day, all in the name of our church family. God must be smiling in seeing this wonderful gesture of caring toward perfect strangers.



1 Dean Garrett	16 Adison Shellman
1 Carol Winga	16 Malissa Willers
2 Arnel Baughman	16 John Winga III
2 Gavin Smith	17 Wanda Skubal
3 Rodney Letts	20 Amy Kleese
3 Cori Tinnes	20 Katie McCall
5 Bailey Rees	20 Mitzie Popejoy
5 Ally Rees	20 Adele Reese
7 Pam Pump	21 Halle Cuddeback
7 Colton Woods	21 Aurora Kane
8 Ben Baughman	21 Julie Zahs
8 Dorothy Miller	22 Judy Wertz
9 Gary Murphy	23 Myron Krotz
11 Sami Harvey-Smith	24 Dick Colby
11 Ricky Pierce	24 Lane Keeler
11 Julie See	24 Ben Schiefer
12 Ron Brock	24 Kael Williams
12 Nick Spencer	25 Carly Coakley
13 Sarah Rodgers	26 Rob Martin
14 Holly Youngquist	26 Richard McCall
14 Kimberly Goodwin	26 Tom Murphy
15 Taylor Brinning	28 Stella Eaton

Did you know that when you make a prayer request for our church email prayer chain, 91 households in our church family will be receiving this and lifting you up in their daily prayers! If you would like to be on this prayer chain, please contact Deacon Mary Atwood (maryjoyatwood@gmail.com). If you would like to request a prayer, that request must be made by the individual to Mary. Let us continue to strive to be faithful servants as we offer up prayers of thanksgiving, for hope and peace each day!