



# Spreading the Word

**United Presbyterian Church**  
**October 2017**

## Church Contacts

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## October Highlights

2nd Alzheimer Support Group  
3rd/24th Tues Morning Moms  
4th/11th/25th Family Connection

5th Mobile Food Pantry  
7th PW Fall Gathering Cedar Rapids  
19th Book Club  
19th Blood Drive  
28th-29th Youth Halloween Retreat



*“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”  
Proverbs 29:18a KJV*

A vision is:  
An articulation of the hope of a future reality. *(Think about driverless cars.)*

A vision is:  
A guide that leads us to a future destination.  
*(Think about putting people on Mars or planning a trip to the Grand Canyon.)*

A vision is:  
A statement that challenges our assumptions of what is possible.  
*(Think about the Alzheimer Association’s vision of a cure for dementia.)*

In the last week the Session shared the work that they had done in forming a vision for this church. We heard how they spent over 20 hours meeting to talk about and think about who we were as a congregation, who our neighbors were, what it meant to be church, and who Jesus was to us. From these conversations, and more, this vision was formed. It is simply:

**Transforming lives by sharing our experience of God’s love and acceptance.**

Our vision is both an inward reality and an outward calling. It reminds us that we are transformed and being transformed as disciples of Jesus, and that we are to be transforming others as we share the same love and acceptance that we have experienced from God in Jesus Christ.


At the Congregational Conversations the questions I asked at the end of our time were:

- How will we know we our vision is being lived out?
- What will be some of the positive outcomes that will come from achieving our vision?
  - For you?
  - For UPC?
  - For the families of UPC?
  - For our community?
- What will keep us from achieving our vision?

As you live into the future I am excited to see all the new things that God will be doing in us and around us.

Pastor Bill

Articles for the November newsletter are due Thursday, October 26th



The Feed & Read Book Club will next meet on Thursday, October 19th at 11:45 am in the Church Library.



## From the Music Director....

On most Monday mornings, Dick Hendrickson walks through the whole church facility looking for burnt out light bulbs. You can hear him opening and closing doors as he goes through the building.

He records his findings on a small pocket notebook, and then he reports that information to someone on the facilities team. They then determine which bulbs to replace and when. Some bulbs get replaced immediately, and some get replaced over time, and some don't ever get replaced. It's a decision made by the good folks on our facilities team. It's a team effort.

It reminds me of a couple versions of a joke I read not long ago:

### Version 1

**Question:** How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light bulb?

**Answer:** Well, it should require about five committees to review the idea first. If each is staffed with half a dozen members, that's what.....30?

### Version 2

**Question:** How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light bulb?

**Answer:** Change?!!! My grandfather put that light bulb there!

Both versions give us a chance to look at ourselves and chuckle a bit. But both versions also hold a little bit of truth.

Most of us have noticed the pews have been a bit less populated on Sunday mornings lately. As I talk to other staff members and leaders here at UPChurch, there seems to be a wide range of reasons for this being the case. And I'm told by some not to worry about it, that everything is fine. And they may be absolutely right.

But, there's something in me that wants to investigate this further. I believe we should do all we can to stay relative to all our congregation. I also believe we need to encourage those in our community who haven't been in church for a while (or ever) to give UPChurch another try. I want them to know they are very important us, and that we want to be relative to them as well.

With Session's approval, we have formed a team from our congregation to take a serious look at our worship, to see how we might be more inclusive and more relative in worship. It's only one part of the picture, but it's an important part. We'll keep you informed as we undertake this process.

Thanks for your prayers.

## SANCTUARY PROJECT UPDATE

As we move into October we are all anxious to see progress on the sanctuary project. Here are where things are at as of September 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Audio/Visual equipment has been ordered and much of it has arrived at the contractor who is planning to start bringing it on site as early as next week (week of Sept 24<sup>th</sup>).
- The contractor is having difficulty getting an electrician on site to do the preliminary electric work required before they can begin installing equipment. (Most electricians in the area are tied up working on grain drying equipment.)
- The acoustical panels are ordered and won't be in until sometime in October.
- The lighting work won't begin until November 1<sup>st</sup> at the earliest.



We continue to be in conversations with Matt at Eyes in Ears Audio and Visual as far as the progress of the project and will share information with you as it comes available. The best thing for us to do is remain patient and flexible during this time.



## From the Director of Youth....

There can be no doubt that Sonja and I have been blessed by the birth of our daughter Eliana, and now we have also been blessed by all of you. Sonja, Eliana, and I would like to thank everyone for the lovely reception you held for us last month and for the many wonderful gifts. It is so great to be surrounded by such a supportive and caring congregation and we are so thankful and humbled by your love and generosity. Thank you ever so much!



On Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>, Crew will be holding its annual **Diner Drive-In**. Please come and join us in the church parking lot from 5 – 6pm for some good food and great company! Aside from being a great time, the Drive-In helps to provide Crew with some of the funds that it needs for their activities, events, and missions. This year we will be hoping to adopt-a-family for Christmas and go to Youth Quake in Des Moines, among other special events. Cost for a meal at the Drive-In is \$5 per meal with a \$20 family max (a great deal for larger families!). We will not be open all night, but we will certainly serve you curbside, and we might even be smiling!

### UPCOMING DATES!

#### CREW

October 1<sup>st</sup> – Meet at the church at 3pm to prep for Diner Drive-In

October 15<sup>th</sup> – Meet at the church at 3pm for special activity.

#### INSIDE OUT

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>: 6:30pm @ UP Church

Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>: Corn Maze – meet @ church @ 1pm

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>: 6:30pm @ UP Church

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>: 6:30pm @ UP Church

Oct 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: Halloween Retreat



On Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> the Inside Out will be participating in a **Halloween Retreat**. We will meet at the church late Saturday afternoon and head on to the retreat facility. As part of the evening we will be going to a Haunted House, and then end the evening with snacks, games, and a discussion about fear. Youth will be returned to the church in the approximate shape they were dropped off in by late Sunday morning.



Connect with us on Facebook:

“Washington United Presbyterian Church”

“The CROSSing Washington, Iowa”

“Kingdom Kids Preschool Washington Iowa”



## The Kingdom Kids

The Kingdom Kids are off to a great start as we explore ourselves, our families, and our friends. We have compared how we are the same and how we are different, we are learning the routine of school, and we are learning how to take turns and be independent. In October we will explore the changes of Fall.

Our numbers continue to grow as we will be gaining 4 students before October. Our numbers went from 4 students in July to soon 15 students. God is definitely working in this situation!! Jennifer Sands is our assistant teacher. She has 2 elementary aged children at home, and has jumped right in to this exciting and active position.

Please continue to pray for the children, families and staff that are part of Kingdom Kids. We are looking forward to an exciting year.



### NURSERY TEACHERS NEEDED!

Have we got just the opportunity for you! This Fall we have an opening for a Nursery Sunday School teacher. If you want to spend an hour a week playing with some of the most adorable children around, please see Jared. You will not want to miss this great opportunity!



The 2017-2018 Confirmation Class has just gotten underway – but it’s not too late if you know of someone who wants to participate. This year we will be meeting several times throughout the year on early out Wednesdays as well as the students meeting often with their mentors.

There will also be a Confirmation Retreat February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year’s class will then be Confirmed on Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am service.



### Don't be surprised to receive a note from Flocknote!

In the interest of better communication, we are now using Flocknote. Flocknote is a program specifically designed to help churches communicate with its members and is a great way of getting information out to everyone. Flocknote sends messages via text and/or email – you are able to choose which you prefer. If you would like to sign up, just text the keyword ‘upwash’ to the number 84576, or see Jared if you have any questions.



On October 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:15, Pastor Bill will be offering a class for those interested in learning more about “us.” This class is for those wanting to learn a bit more about Presbyterians, as well as for persons interested in joining our church family. There will be some talking about the general history and beliefs of the Presbyterian denomination and the very unique and caring ministry and mission of our own United Presbyterian Church.

If you have any questions about this opportunity contact anyone on the Welcome Team (Terry Anderson, Linda Boston, Emily Burroughs, Billie Bruns, Kathy Knutson, Marde McConnell or Ed Raber.) If you’re interested in attending this class or if you know of anyone who might be interested in this class, please call Jessica at the church office (653-6588).

## SESSION

Fall is a busy time in the church with the Youth programs starting up, adult study classes resuming, and it seems like activity everywhere (where did those shrubs go!). The Session is busy as well with Pastor Bill helping the Session members prepare for the “Congregational Conversations”. The

Mission Team is busy reviewing the responses received from a survey they had sent out inquiring about what local missions are most important to church members. The Nominating Committee has met with COM Liaison, Martha Wiley, working toward getting names to nominate for the Pastor Nominating Committee. We have some very creative people who are working to design a new church logo for our church-something special. Oh, and check out the nursery later in October- it will be looking great with a coat of paint and new flooring.

October will also be busy with the Stewardship Committee ready to kick off their yearly campaign and a new member class starting.

Thanks to all, session members and others, who come together making good things happen for this church and community.



*Aug 13 Leonard Goeke  
Aug 23 Rose Boileau  
Sept 6 Pat Johnson*

## MISSION

Our Sunday School project for this year is Pasrur Christian Boys School. In Pakistan boys and girls cannot go to school together after 5<sup>th</sup> grade due to government regulation. Parents of the boys have been asking for a school beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Many boys are forced to go to local school or become laborers at the local brick factory without an education. The parents want their children's lives transformed through education to reach their full potential. They want their children taught values of respect, justice, kindness, tolerance, and integrity in a society that is affected by terrorism. Our church assisted in building the Pasrur Christian School for girls and now we would like to assist in building the boys school. The school will have 4 classrooms, a computer lab, a science lab along with office space.

Make a difference in the lives of the children in Pakistan and give generously to the Sunday School project for this year.



## PW Women News

Oct 4th Fall Dessert  
Oct 7th Fall Gathering  
Oct 11th Meeting  
Nov 8th Meeting

## BE MINDFUL!

**If you unlock it, lock it back up.  
If you turn it on, turn it back off.  
If you borrow it, return it.**



## Lost & Found

Lost articles can be claimed in the coat rack area across the hall from the Women's bathroom.



*Sept 3 Jase Robert  
Johnson, son of Barry  
and Holly Johnson*



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!

## LANDSCAPING NEWS

Because so many volunteers came to help with our recent Clean-Up/Spruce-Up Event, we were able to begin our outdoor landscaping projects. Since that time other volunteers have removed the "sick" arborvitae screening our parking lot from the Korner Creamery building. Also, the dying evergreens south of the Fellowship Hall window, as well as the evergreens north of the chapel are to be removed in the very near future. All stumps will be ground out and all three areas will be prepped for their new plantings this fall.

We've worked with landscape designer Tammy Yoder of Kalona on replanting ideas for the above mentioned areas, as well as for a few other spots. We're thrilled with her ideas to help us improve our exterior "look." We hope to add color where appropriate; to replant some evergreens for year-round "green," as well as to plant some deciduous bushes.

This is a joint Welcome Team and Property Team project and we'll be using volunteers as much as possible. Don't be surprised if you're given an "opportunity" to help plant some bushes this fall. Feel free to call the church office to volunteer!



The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will

be having a blood drive at the church on Thursday, October 19, 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 Don Pfeiffer with the Optimist Club Cell: 319-461-9939

The church's web site ([www.upcwash.org](http://www.upcwash.org)) has much useful information including the current newsletter and church calendar.

**Facebook:** "Washington United Presbyterian Church" or "Kingdom Kids Preschool"

**E-mail:** Call the church office (653-6588) if we don't have your email so that you can get the newsletter sent to you and other important announcements.



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|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Synthia Palmer    | 15 Mike Orris       |
| 1 Layne Twinam      | 16 Madelyn Janecek  |
| 2 Donna Orris       | 16 Tracy Kleese     |
| 3 Noah Bruns        | 16 Brendan Loula    |
| 4 Heidi Johnson     | 17 Christy Buchholz |
| 6 Marie See         | 18 Charley Eaton    |
| 8 Alicia Greiner    | 18 Victor Miller    |
| 8 Halle Leyden      | 18 Wilma Wright     |
| 9 Betty Colby       | 19 Donald Gorham    |
| 9 Cameron Westphal  | 20 Nolan Burke      |
| 10 Tyler Jaspering  | 21 Jackson Rodgers  |
| 10 Jace Johnson     | 22 James Wertz      |
| 11 April Cuddeback  | 23 Rollin Davison   |
| 11 Harriett Rustan  | 23 Dexter Rich      |
| 11 Kathy Witthoft   | 24 Terry Mangold    |
| 12 Quinn Buckingham | 25 Carmen Woods     |
| 13 Layla Hesser     | 27 Barbara Schreur  |
| 13 Hannah Rodgers   | 27 Ava Walker       |
| 14 Travis Moore     | 28 David Draheim    |
| 14 Mindi Rees       |                     |

### 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.

Thank you all so much for all the kindness shown to us during Pat's illness and at the time of her death. We can't imagine having gone through this time without our church family. All your prayers, food, cards and acts of kindness meant the world to us. Many blessings to each of you.

-The Family of Pat Johnson



### Church Family News . . . just so you know! (Feel free to turn in your "good news" into Jessica)

Some of you may not be aware of the important role Karen Murphy and other volunteers play, supporting those in our church family who have lost a loved one. Karen willingly took on this role from Betty Colby who so ably cared for these families for many years. Karen and other volunteers work to be a caring support to the family in grief, in any way they can. Prior to or after the celebration of life service, they may provide a full, hot meal; a light lunch; or just cake, cookies and refreshments. They strive to meet the individual needs of each family in their time of loss. They serve that family, representing our church family, with compassion and Christ-like love. Thank you, Karen, and others!

Our recent two-hour clean-up/spruce-up event was a huge success and fun – thanks everyone! It's been suggested by several people that we have a spring AND fall event each year - so be prepared! By, they way, Sandy Dunlap and others have continued doing more improvement/spruce up projects around the church. Thanks, Sandy and all!

Brad and Megan Alderton, Tyler and Emma were once again very generous in sharing produce from their garden. They not only shared from their abundance with our church family, they also shared with our Saturday Kitchen guests. We know your gardening is hard work and we're all very thankful for generosity, Brad, Megan, Tyler and Emma.

The reception/shower honoring baby Eliana and her parents - "our" youth director, Jared, and his wife, Sonja was lovely. This special time would not have been possible without the wonderful help from the following people: Mary Saforek, Angie Schluetter, Karen Murphy, Katie Lujan, Dawn Keith, and Teresa Anderson. Thank you, each of you, for sharing your time and varied talents in helping us welcome Eliana into our church family.