



Spreading the Word

United Presbyterian Church
February 2017

Church Contacts

P.O. Box 32
209 E Main Street
Washington, IA 52353
319-653-6588
www.upcwash.org

Pastor

Rev. Bill Warhover
upwashpastor@gmail.com

Music & Arts Director

Butch Zwicki
butchzwicki@gmail.com

Kingdom Kids Preschool

Brenda Miles
kkpwash@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Margie Roth
upsecretary@gmail.com



February Highlights

Blood Drive - February 9
Valentine's Day - February 14
Book Club - February 16

Kids Camp - February 20
CE Teacher's Meeting - February 22



There is a lot going on here!

I love the energy of the Kingdom Kids as they move through the church. Each week worship service include a plethora of musicians and **singers. There's Sunday Schools for all ages and youth** programs for middle & high schoolers. We took our turn at The Saturday Kitchen in January. We had a couple Session meetings and an annual meeting. The committee to hire our next Youth and CE director has been hard at work. The office is busy every morning. Amazing!

Anne Youngman has been working on a new website design. I got to see some images of it and it looks great. It will be easily accessible on your computer, phone, or pad. It will help others get to know us even before they come to be with us.

You have a Sanctuary Project Campaign that I have been learning about. I reported at the annual meeting that \$51,248.00 had been collected as of December 31, 2016 and another approximately \$65,000.00 pledged. While this project has been on a kind of hiatus during **this transition the need hasn't changed. Soon it will be** time to go back to work on this project. Amazing!

Amazing/Amazed is the word that Luke's gospel uses to describe the presence of Jesus – the work of Jesus teaching, loving, bringing healing and wholeness to people. It makes me wonder what God is up to here.

Pastor Bill



Dear Friends,

I'm writing this letter to let you know that I will be leaving my position of Secretary/Treasurer at the UP Church. My husband has accepted a position in Colorado. Although our exact timeline is not yet determined, we will be moving to the Denver area sometime this spring.

I will be working with Butch, Bill Warhover and others in the coming months to ensure a smooth transition for the new incoming person. I am grateful for the opportunities I've had these past two years, and cherish the friendships I've made. Thank you for making me a part of your church family.

I feel confident that good things are in store for this congregation. God Bless you all,
~ Margie

**It's back – let
the fun begin!!
Sunday, Feb.12**



Mr. Potato Head once again invites you to a yummy lunch of a hot baked potato and more toppings you can imagine, along with delicious fruit and tasty desserts. By the way, there will be a kid-friendly meal alternative.

Not only do you NOT HAVE TO COOK that day, you will be treated to some INCREDIBLY FUN ENTERTAINMENT from the little ones, who will warm your heart, to the talented older kids and youth of our church – maybe even an adult or two?

Rest assured, there will be many varied talents for you to enjoy, all which will put a smile on your face! Your free will donation will support the American Cancer Society AND Team UP and Friends, our church Relay for Life team.

Please join us for an hour or so for a fabulous lunch, terrific entertainment and great fellowship with your church family.

Mark Sunday, Feb. 12th on your calendar and join us following the worship service for a delicious potato bar meal . . . and a GREAT TIME with your church family!



From the Music Director....

Who would have thought one year ago that our congregation would be walking down our current path. We had a full staff on hand, and things were pretty comfortable. Now, twelve months later, we find ourselves in one nation-wide search after another to fill our staff vacancies. We have committees and teams working long hours trying to do all they can to secure a great future for our church.

God has a way of doing this to us....or maybe....doing this for us! No writings I've ever read, nor discussions with pastors, nor meetings with worship leaders around the country have ever led me to believe that life following Christ is suppose to be comfortable, stable, or predictable. As a matter of fact, most believe and have learned to expect quite the opposite. More than any of these descriptions, I believe following Christ is suppose to be a very radical way of life.

Choosing to spend our lives following Christ, I believe, should lead us into places we've not had the courage to go before. It should open our eyes to see God at work in some of the messy things in life...the things in which we would not otherwise expect to see God's hands at work. Following Christ, we see each other much differently than non-believers. Instead of condemning each other for things we don't fully understand, we see someone created by God, just as we are. Instead of rehashing the same old discussions and arguments, we become able to identify new ideas and new ministries full of possibilities. And when we come to worship, instead of only attending worship, we fully engage in inviting the Holy Spirit into our hearts, we actively pursue the heart of Christ, and we intentionally quiet our minds and souls to listen for the voice of God.

Following Christ is a radical way of life. It changes the fundamental nature of our thinking. It shifts our minds from short-sighted to far-reaching. We become more ready to accept change and subsequently adjust our lives to fully adopt and embrace what God is providing now and what may come next. Our plans will always pale to God's plans. No matter how we see ourselves one year from now, God might just have something different in mind for us, something not even on our radar today.

So let us go on this radical ride together. Let us put our trust in God. Let us surrender our need to control our lives. Let us hand over the reins to the one who created us, the one who is sovereign over us, the one who loves us and loves through us.

God is in control! All is well.

Butch Zwicky, Director of Music & Arts



Circle 3 February 14, 9:30 am
Lesson #5: Betty Colby
Devotions: Marilyn Johnston

Circle 4 February 8, 9:15 am
UP Home, Campbell Room
Hostess: Betty Beenblossom
Study: Esther Bordwell
Devotions: Vivian Griffith

The Read & Feed Book Club

will next meet on
Thursday, February 16, 2017,
11:45 am in the Church Library
and report on a book of choice



Articles for the March
newsletter are due
February 16



Youth News ...

INSIDE OUT -

For Youth in grades 9-12

Regular Meetings, Sundays at 6:30 pm.

Bring a friend and share the fun!

CREW -

For youth in grades 6-8.

No Crew on February 5th, Regular meeting on Sunday, February 19th. Enjoy the Superbowl,

and don't forget your Adoption fund-raiser cans!



"The Greatest Commandments" will be February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

This should be another fun month as our kids learn about God's greatest commandments and how he cares and loves us all.

Teachers for this unit are Dana and Ann Conklin, Ed and Erica Raber, Kori Rich and Marde McConnell. We are grateful for their commitment to teaching our children about the Lord and his love for each and everyone of us.

Thanks again to the Pathfinders Class for their willingness to help teach and lead Son City during the month of January, the kids had a blast learning about Noah!

KIDS CAMP February 20th (A No-School Day!)

"LOVE GOD / LOVE OTHERS" will be our Kid's Camp theme. This continues the focus of Son City in the month of February where we are learning about the Greatest Commandment! Included in our day will be a breakfast snack, lunch, winter games, an art activity, a reach out project and a movie. Be sure to sign up your child in the office by February 15 so we can plan our supplies. We are hoping you can join us!!

~Karen and Krista

Church Family News . . . just so you know!

Our church was scheduled to host the SATURDAY KITCHEN on CHRISTMAS EVE. We anticipated it might be hard to come up with volunteers to help – were we wrong! You, our church family, was amazing - we had so many of you volunteer, we turned people away! Thank you to so many of you who so unselfishly gave of yourselves to serve our Lord and those in need in our community during the very busy, holiday season.

Some of you may have noticed how ED RABER can be found snapping photos at many of our church activities. Ed then places them on Facebook so others can see all the great things that are going on within our church family. Many thanks, Ed!

Did you know that DICK HENDRICKSON conscientiously walks throughout the church **each Monday morning? He's checking for any maintenance needs, such as light bulbs to be replaced or other similar needs. We're grateful for Dick's commitment to this helpful task.**

A HUGE thank you to the adults who gave a weekend of their time and energy to chaperone the middle school kids at YOUTHQUAKE this January. Those adults who are to be commended are April Cuddeback, Tracy Strabala, Brad Alderton, Mindi Rees, Nate and Janet Conrad.

We're grateful to the MISSION TEAM for giving us the fabulous opportunity to purchase unusual, hand-made items in December. Many items were made from recycled materials! The profits from those purchases help people in need in developing countries.

If you would like to thank someone for **something they've done, feel free to let the Office know!**





SHARE YOUR LOVE



We have three opportunities for ways in which you can share of Love of our Lord with folks right here in our Washington community. The Board of Deacons is seeking your help with three different ministries.

- ◆ Help Deliver Meals on Wheels--- which ensures that the homebound has one human contact a day & one hot meal.
- ◆ Transport folks who can no longer drive to a doctor appointment, to church, etc.
- ◆ Share the Love of our church family with a person from our church family who has difficulty leaving their home by visiting them once a month.

May the Holy Spirit lead you to consider serving our Lord in this way. Sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall or contact Kathy Knutson or Mary Atwood.



To those who rang bells for the Salvation Army,
Before any more time goes by, I want to thank you, the
United Presbyterian Church, for giving of your time....

Your life
Your support
Your encouragement
For ringing the Salvation Army bells for the
people within our community.

For people YOU know

For people YOU don't know

For people who are in need of love
And grace along with God's coming.

The gift of your life and time has made a difference in this community.

Thus I would like to announce to you:
Your help raised \$15,838.00 dollars for this community
Because of your acts of love and kindness.

This is \$2,000 more than last year. Thank you!
My prayer is that we will be able to work together next
year. Now, may God grant you and your group a
wonderful new year.

Peace and Grace,
Jim Stiles, Darryl Carr, Dave Watson, Deb McCreedy,
Tim Johnson

Connect with us on Facebook:

**“Washington United
Presbyterian
Church”**



**“The CROSSing
Washington, Iowa”**

**“Kingdom Kids Preschool
Washington Iowa”**

My sincere thank you to my church family for all the prayers and acts of kindness shown during the illness and death of my brother, Donald Schantz. We were grateful for the use of the **church at the time of Don's** funeral.

Church ladies, I will be ever grateful for all the work you did preparing and serving the luncheon, and making things go so smoothly.

God Bless you All,
Betty Beenblossom



The sewing group has been busy with a variety of projects for 2016. In the past we have had as many as 12 ladies working.

- ◆ 25 Lap Robes/Comforters to Church members
- ◆ 1 Comforter to a fire victim
- ◆ 2 Quilts for Hospice Benefit Sale
- ◆ 1 Quilt for Relay for Life
- ◆ 56 Flags Repaired
- ◆ For the Mission Market: 1 purse, 1 child's quilt, 3 casserole carriers, 4 curling iron carriers, 46 x 60 Table Topper/ Wall Hanging, 49 x 59 Comforters
- ◆ 10 Comforters to Pearl Valley
- ◆ 3 Comforters to McCreedy Home
- ◆ 4 Comforters to UP Home
- ◆ 3 Comforters to Hospice
- ◆ 6 Baby Blankets and 5 knitted hats to the PW Spring Workshop
- ◆ 3 Baby Blankets and 14 knitted hats to the PW Fall Workshop
- ◆ 10 Quiet Books and 13 Taggies for Heather Anderson's Mission Trip to China
- ◆ 12 Knitted Baby hats to the Hospital
- ◆ 24 Knitted hats to the Police and Sheriff Department
- ◆ 24 Knitted hats to Steward School
- ◆ 1 Comforter to Bob and Jean Wollenburg going away present

Mission News....

During the month of February, the Mission Team is offering the opportunity to support our local Family Connection. This agency offers education, encouragement and support to families of babies & toddlers in Washington Co.

They provide incentive gifts to families who meet specific guidelines. As in the past, we have a chance to support their work with a diaper drive. They are especially in need of diapers **sizes 4, 5 & 6 (no Parent's Choice brand)** and unscented wipes.

Help us support this important group that promotes healthy families in our community.



We have a New Website!!!

Many thanks to Anne Dillon for her work and expertise, and to Mary Lou Saforek for her guidance and review.

www.upcwash.org



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|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 George Fulton | 6 Ethel Moothart | 18 Eliana Martin | 28 Melissa Kaufman |
| 1 Megan Mitchell | 7 Grace Schiebel | 18 Dolores Wood | 28 Abigail Kleese |
| 3 Sawyer Whisler | 8 Ellen Twinam | 20 Jacob Baughman | 28 Ed Lins |
| 4 Peggy Gerot | 9 Terry Anderson | 20 Lincoln Kleese | 28 Hayden Westphal |
| 4 Tim Trotman | 9 Meda Fulton | 21 Annagrace Goeke | 28 Bev Young |
| 4 Gracie Walker | 10 Teresa Anderson | 21 Isaac Rich | 29 Travis Shelman |
| | 10 Jaylene Schell | 22 Alice Martin | |
| | 11 Beth Dillon | 22 Ella Walker | |
| | 11 Luke Schiebel | 23 Amanda Burke | |
| | 13 Megan Buitendorp | 24 Jared Henry | |
| | 13 Clay Whisler | 24 John Thorne | |
| | 14 James Strabala | 24 Cal Wolf | |
| | 16 Scott Lujan | 27 Erik Buchholz | |
| | 17 Brian Strabala | 28 Lauren Carter | |

