



# Spreading the Word

## United Presbyterian Church May 2017

### Church Contacts

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### May Highlights

PW Salad Luncheon - May 3

Fine Arts Banquet - May 9

Youth Sunday - May 14

Kingdom Kids Last day - May 25



In April we remembered the Holy Week story, celebrated Easter, and kicked off the new Sanctuary Project fundraising effort. At first glance it does not seem that the first two are connected to the last one. Holy Week is about remembering in the words of 1John 3:16, *“We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us...”* And Easter is about celebrating the ripple that has moved out from Jesus’ resurrection and finds its way to us today. A Sanctuary Project, doesn’t seem to fit in the category of sacrificial love or Easter’s transformation.

Get Connected was chosen as the theme for this second part of the Sanctuary Project campaign in part because it recognizes the importance of worship in connecting us to our God. The history of our Christian faith tells of how this connecting in worship has changed throughout the generations. A tradition of oral recitation worked well for people who did not have access to printed material. The invention of the printing press and the Enlightenment gave people access to their own Bible, shared liturgy, and expository preaching. The advent of electricity changed the design of our churches, allowing light and sound systems to be used. We ourselves have seen an explosion of technology that invites people to visually participate in learning and connecting with others.

The Sanctuary Project seeks to connect people to our God and to one another by using the technology that is no longer a luxury but a part of what is necessary to communicate the gospel’s message of God’s love in Jesus Christ and the transformative nature of Easter’s story

Romans 10:14 says: *“But how shall they ask him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?”*

Please prayerfully consider your part in making the Sanctuary Project a reality.

Pastor Bill

### 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](mailto: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.

## Sanctuary Project



Thank you all for your support of the Sanctuary Project!

To date we have raised **\$141,393.26** and have yet to raise **\$123,606.74** to meet our goal. Thanks for your generosity!

The Sanctuary Project will both replace and enhance the technology (audio, visual, and lighting) used in our Sanctuary. At a price of \$265,000 with a 10% mission pledge some of us feel this is an extravagant use of our resources. But technology has changed and so has the church.

Some of us remember when having ‘indoor plumbing’ was a luxury that maybe we couldn’t afford but we wouldn’t think of buying a house that doesn’t have that technology today. Some of us can remember when not everybody had electricity. We remember when a radio in our home or a telephone on the wall was a big deal. Maybe we remember our first TV, microwave, personal computer, lap top, cell phone, or tablet. All this is to say that technology has changed dramatically in our life time and things that were extravagant have become ordinary and we couldn’t imagine life without them. The technology being addressed in the Sanctuary Project is no longer a luxury but an important tool in communicating our message that we are to love God and love one another.

The Sanctuary Project Fundraising Team will be giving you weekly updates until the campaign concludes on May 28. Pledge cards are available at the office or from a member of the Team. If you are making or sending a gift please just mark it Sanctuary Project and drop it by the office or in the offering plate. Please prayerfully consider your gift or pledge to the Sanctuary Project.

Emily Burroughs	Scott Lujan
David Bruns	Randy Fehr
Terry Anderson	Paster Bill
Angie Schluetter	Mary Lou Saforek
Steve Liebe	



## From the Music Director...

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been faithful to the ministry of this church and our music ministry. We are at the end of our season with some of the ensembles you see helping to support worship on Sunday mornings.

The Wind Ensemble ended its season at the beginning of April. This group has always had the kind of musicianship it takes to be self-rehearsed. This means they come to our warm-up time on the Sundays that they play with their music prepared to put it together quickly with the organ or piano in a very short warm-up time before worship begins. They've had a meaningful impact on worship each time they've been a part of 10:30 Worship.

The Handbell Choir also ended their season in mid-April. Each month they have been faithful to offer special music specifically written for choir of handbells. Those of you who have had the experience of participating in a handbell choir know well the challenges that are involved with each and every piece of music they play. As the ensemble continued to shrink in numbers throughout this entire year, these folks always rose to the occasion and came up with innovative and creative ways to make it all work on Sunday morning.

Chancel Choir will end their season the first week of May, This group has been with us in worship most Sundays since the beginning of September. Their hard work and commitment is appreciated so much by myself and many in worship on Sunday mornings. Our Chancel Choir is a group of people who care a lot about our community, our church, our ministry, our worship, and each other. They've worked hard this year to be there during the time of transition, always willing to do their part to make everything go well.

Worship Band will continue through the summer months, maybe catching some time off here and there as they can. Until you've been a part of a group like the worship band, you don't realize the amount of work and the time commitment it takes to make it all happen. Some in our 10:30 worship band are also part of the CROSSING band too, which means they are preparing for two different worship experiences each week.

The Pianists in 8:00 Worship share early each Sunday morning. They will continue to support that ministry throughout the summer months. We are appreciative of all they do to offer their beautiful music in each week's worship.

I want to thank everyone who has participated in any of these groups along with the music librarians, the camera operators, the computer operators who give up Sundays to make our worship time more meaningful. We could not do any of what we do with you folks. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!



Circle 3 May 9, 9:30 am  
Lesson: June Asper  
Devotions: Deb Helmick

Circle 4 May 10, 9:15 am  
UP Home, Campbell Room  
Hostess: Janice Twinam  
Study: Wilma Wright  
Devotions: Kay Hall

### Attention Ladies!

On May 3rd at 11:45 am is the PW Salad Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own table service and a salad to share.



The program will be given by past Rosie the Riveter Louise Unkrich from Swedesburg and her daughter, Trish Woepking. The program will tell all about the part women played on the home front during World War 2.

Please bring a guest and join us for fellowship and inspiration. A fun time will be had by all, everyone welcome!



## From the Director of Youth....

It has been a joy getting started and seeing all the wonderful things that are happening in this church, there are so many great ministries happening here. It is exciting to be part of a church that is so alive and active, and I look forward to contributing to the ministries that are already at work.

Plans for the summer are coming together and we are starting to look to the Fall, which will be here before we know it. I am so grateful to all the folks that have been welcoming and supportive as I get started in this position.

Starting a new job brings with it many changes, and there is much to learn. On top of the change that comes with a new job, my wife and I are preparing for another significant change as we will be welcoming our first child in the near future (Sonja's due date is May 19<sup>th</sup>). It is my hope to be as supportive as I can when the time for labor and delivery arrives – so if you see me sprinting for my car in late May there is a good chance that I am on my way to be with her. But not to worry, I will be staying in touch and tuned in with my responsibilities here at the church and will be back in the office as soon as is prudent.

It truly is an exciting time in my life with all the changes that are happening, and I am looking forward to both of my new roles, Youth Director and father (though I will miss sleeping through the night).

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## INSIDE OUT MISSION TRIP



This year the youth will be going to Sumter, South Carolina, from June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. The youth will be working with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help repair hurricane and flood damaged homes.

Please keep this trip in your prayers as it is always a memorable experience and a great chance for a change of place, change of pace, and change of perspective!



Please do not flip the switch to hold open the automatic doors. If you must flip them, please remember to switch them back. When they are not switched back, they stay open and put strain on the doors, which could potentially damage the doors in the future.



Articles for the June newsletter are due Thursday, May 18th



## Youth News ...

### INSIDE OUT

For Youth in grades 9-12. Sundays at 6:30 pm.

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>

Join us for the last few meetings of the year. We will be having fun, planning for Youth Sunday and the Mission Trip, and learning to play 4-square in a Christ-like manner.



May 14<sup>th</sup> is Youth Sunday & Senior Recognition

The Youth will be leading the 10:30am Service on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We invite all to come and worship with us in this energetic and delightful service.

May 28<sup>th</sup>

Graduation Sunday, no regular meeting.

### CREW

For youth in grades 6-8.

May 7<sup>th</sup>: End of Year Celebration, 3:30 - 5pm.



Summer Crew: This summer we will again be planning summer crew activities on at least 1 Friday each month. We will plan on serving in the morning and playing in the afternoon. Please stay tuned for the events and dates.



For Unit 9 the children will be taking a look at the Tower of Babel. Teachers for this unit are Anne Youngman, Julie Zahs, Jane Cuddeback, and Kori Rich.

On May 28 there will be a Sunday School Party at the Park.

### The Kingdom Kids

The Kingdom Kids are wrapping up the year on an active note. We celebrated Spring with our program last week as we sang some of our favorite songs for friends and family.



In May we will be traveling to Stewart school for lunch as a transition activity for those moving on to Kindergarten next year. We will also be taking a field trip to Sunset Park as we celebrate the end of the school year. In between trips we will continue to learn by reading, playing, cooperating, exploring, and helping each other.

We have lots of openings for preschool next fall. If you know of interested families, please have them call Brenda Miles at [319-461-4327](tel:319-461-4327) or the church. Remember that four year olds attend tuition free, so as you meet families this summer, please let them know. Thank you for your prayers and support. Please Like/Share our Facebook page.



### Vacation Bible School

Theme: "Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!"

The key Bible verse is Psalm 34:14b, "Do Good! Seek peace and go after it!"

**Date and Time:** Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 - 8:30 in the evening.

All 4 year olds through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to register and take part in Hero Central.

Please contact Jared Long or Erin Thorius with questions or for more information.

## Session Update

The Session continues to work through a process of discerning a vision and the values that will lead us in the future. In a series of Sunday afternoon work session we have been thinking about who we are, what church is, and who lives in the community around us. We will be talking about who Jesus is before starting to articulate that vision and those values. The congregation will be asked to be a part of this conversation throughout the summer. (Look for information later about these gatherings.)

People continue to ask about when we will begin looking for a new pastor. The plan is to finish this vision and values process as this information will be important to us as we begin looking for a new pastor. It is our hope right now that a Pastor Nominating Committee will be formed and begin their work in the fall.

If you ever have questions please don't hesitate to ask any of the Session members.

Kay Hall on behalf Session.

Randy Fehr	Rita Phipps
Billie Bruns	Mary Lou Saforek
Jacob Thorius	Karen Dillon
Terry Mangold	Joe McConnell
Arnel Baughman	Emily Burroughs
Diana Rich	Jamie Rich
Meredith Raber	



### Lost & Found

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



Connect with us on Facebook:

“Washington United Presbyterian Church”

“The CROSSing Washington, Iowa”

“Kingdom Kids Preschool Washington Iowa”



The Feed & Read Book Club will next meet on **Thursday, May 18,** at 11:45 am in the Church Library.

Beatrix (Jean) Miksch  
March 31, 2017

Marjorie McArtor  
(Yoder, Shaver)  
April 20, 2017



Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity works with Cedar, Johnson and Washington counties. Founded in 1992 they have partnered with over 150 households in these counties. There are currently several homes in the building process in these counties. This June there will be a 2 week blitz build in Hills for a zero lot home. Our local mission team would like to help with this project, more information will be coming, watch the church bulletin!

There is a **Helping Hands** program that is always taking applications to assist homeowners with ramps and some maintenance, the application is on their web site. There are plans to build soon for a family in Riverside, interested persons can apply online at [www.iowavalleyhabitat.org](http://www.iowavalleyhabitat.org). The website also has a link for volunteer work with an updated list of places we can help at most anytime.

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.

## Happy Birthday!



2 Kayla Andrew  
 2 Allison Hippen  
 4 Brianna Banks  
 4 Mary Lou Saforek  
 4 Dave Schluetter  
 5 George Grove  
 6 Cathy Kleese  
 6 Colin Rich  
 8 Emery Walton  
 10 Dayton Schluetter  
 11 Matt Schiebel  
 13 Jane Cuddeback  
 13 Marjorie Fullerton  
 13 Bill Pim  
 14 Willow Kane  
 14 Sonny Phipps  
 14 Dale Spencer  
 15 Andy McCall

16 Walt Gowan  
 16 Elyse Hunt  
 19 Morgan Meyer  
 24 Teague Mayer  
 25 Ezra Graber  
 25 Harvey Holden  
 25 Paulette Twinam  
 26 Kasen Bailey  
 26 Otis Cleverly  
 26 Dana Conklin  
 26 Erik Murphy  
 27 Regan Loula  
 27 Sikke Temple  
 27 Allie Wulf  
 28 Dorothy Pforts  
 29 TJ Durst  
 29 Jane Fehr  
 29 Tork Whisler  
 30 Ariel Kaufman



### CREW:

We will meet for our final CREW on Sunday May 7th from 3:30-5:00.

We will be having homemade ice-cream, toppings, and brownies and would love for CREW members and their families to join us!

Jared Long, the new Youth Director, will also be there and this will be a great chance to meet! Please let Janet know how many from your family will be coming! [jconrad@washington.k12.ia.us](mailto:jconrad@washington.k12.ia.us)

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

Did you know our church family delivers Meals on Wheels, prepared by the Washington County Hospital staff, to 10-15 people in our community, Monday through Friday, nine weeks a year! This program is coordinated by the Ministerial Association and church Deacons. By the way our church delivers more weeks than any other church. It's just another way we're reaching out in love and caring to those in need.

Thanks to "our Megan Coakley" who, along with a friend, heard first-hand of the devastation caused by a recent wildfire, affecting Kansas and other nearby states. They decided we- those in our community and with our abundance- needed to share with those in need. Megan and her friend helped to coordinate one of the first, emergency caravans of semis to deliver bales of hay and other needed fencing materials to those in need in Ashland, Kansas. Many others from around our area, even a group from our church, and others throughout the US, have been reaching out in giving of their time and materials to help these so in need. Thanks, Megan and others, for sharing of yourselves and your material supplies!

Due to a miscommunication two groups arrived Easter Sunday morning to provide food for our annual, Easter breakfast - what a great problem to have! All extra food was given away - so several of our church families were surprised to receive bags of fruit or muffins to enjoy later in the day.

(Feel free to turn "news" into our new secretary, Jessica )