



Spreading the Word

United Presbyterian Church December 2017

www.upcwash.org

Church Contacts

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December Highlights

3rd Crew Scavenger Hunt
6th PW Christmas Tea
7th Mobile Food Pantry
7th Fort Nightly Club
12th PNC Meeting

14th Blood Drive
15th Bell Ringing@Walmart
19th Finance
20th Session
24th Candlelight Service
30th Saturday Kitchen-US!



Ann Weems, poet, Presbyterian, and St Louisian touches on a hope and longing within many of us in her poem *The Year Will Be Different*:

*Who among us does not have dreams that this year will be different?
Who among us does not intend to go
peacefully, leisurely, carefully toward Bethlehem,
for who among us likes to cope with the commercialism of Christmas
which lures us to tinsel not only the tree but also our hearts?
Who among us intends to get caught up in tearing around
and wearing down?
Who among us does not long for:
gifts that give love?
shopping in serenity?
cards and presents sent off early?
long evenings by the fireside with those we love?
(the trimming devoid of any arguing about who's going to hand what where,
the aroma of cinnamon and nutmeg mingling with the pine scent of the tree,
and carols gently playing over our idyllic scene)
and the children! The children cheerfully talking about giving instead of getting:
Who among us does not yearn for
time for our hearts to ponder the Word of God?
moments of kneeling and burst of song?
the peace of quiet calm for our spirit's journey?*

*This year we intend to follow the Star instead of the crowd.
But, of course, we always do intend the best.
(And sometimes best intentions tend to get the best of us!)
This year, when we find ourselves off the path again (and we invariably will!)
let's not add another stress to our Advent days,
that of trying to do Christmas correctly!"!
Instead, let's approach the birth of our Lord with joyful abandon!*

*And this year
let's do what Mary did and rejoice in God,
let's do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams,
let's do what the Wise Men did and go to worship,
let's do what the shepherds did and praise and glorify God for all we've seen and heard!
As for the Advent frantic pace, we don't have time for that.
We'll be too busy singing!
This year will be different.*

Maybe these words are just sentimentalism. But maybe they give voice to a deep longing within us that gives birth to something new and something holy as we travel together toward Christmas.

Pastor Bill



Articles for the
January
newsletter are due
Thursday, December 21st



Pastor Bill will be gone on
vacation from
December 4-11.
If you have a pastoral care
need please call Pastor
Herb at 319-653-4736



From the Music Director....

The leaves are falling again. Great Thanksgiving celebrations are over and we're in the home stretch to Christmas. Didn't we just have Christmas? It's amazing how time flies each year.

As we come into Advent here at UPC, we are still under some constraints in our Sanctuary due to the project we started in September. Flexibility is still the word, when it comes to using the Sanctuary. But we are moving forward and getting things accomplished a little at a time. We thank you for your patience.

If all goes as planned, we will have the Chancel Choir back in worship Dec 3rd. We are having rehearsals now in preparation for Advent. Hopefully that will all work out with Sanctuary Update scheduling.

The CROSSing is continuing each Sunday afternoon at 5:00. This is a time to experience worship in a more contemporary style with music from the CROSSing Band, readings, meditations, prayer, and great fellowship with people from our town and surrounding communities. The CROSSing is a great way to introduce or re-introduce people to worship done a little differently. Please join us and bring friends as we sing together and worship an unchanging God.

From all of us in the music and worship arts ministry, we wish you all a wonderful Christmas, a safe New Year, and a deep and lasting peace.

Our total contribution to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is a little over **\$5,000!** Thank you all for your continued support and generosity to help those in need! For more information on PDA, visit their website <http://pda.pcusa.org/>



Lost & Found

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



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





Christmas Program

The Christmas Program will be Sunday December 10th @ 10:30am. The children and youth will all be working together to put on the program. We will be presenting a series of skits that will challenge us to take a deeper look at one of our favorite holidays and perhaps help us to look beyond all of the material hype to find the spiritual center of this festive season.



INSIDE OUT

(Senior High Ministry)

December 3rd: 1pm @ UP Church - then out to rake leaves in the community

December 10th: 6:30pm @ UP Church

December 17th: 5pm for Christmas Dinner

December 24th: We are not meeting, Merry Christmas!

December 31st: We are not meeting, Happy New Years!

CREW

(Middle School Ministry)

December 3rd: 1pm @ the church and then off to the Coral Ridge Mall for the Scavenger Hunt and to shop for our Christmas adopt-a-family.

December 17th: 3:30pm @ UP Church for the Christmas Party.

The Kingdom Kids

The preschool kids held a wonderful feast for their friends and family during the week of Thanksgiving. They sang many songs and eagerly put on a performance for their guests!



They made placemats for the table and they shared what they were all thankful for. The kids feasted on chicken noodle soup, rolls, apple slices, and pumpkin bars!

Many exciting things have happened since the start of the year and we look forward to many more!

Christmas break for the preschool will start Friday, December 22nd and they will return to school on Wednesday, January 3rd.

THANK YOU for your support of the Soup Supper! Fun was had and soup was eaten. We also were able to raise almost **\$2,000** for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance! Although we still haven't come to a consensus on whether or not Chili is a soup.



The church's web site (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.

“Extending the Table”



The Deacons are always looking for ways to reach out in God’s love to those in our church family and to others. The team of six helps to coordinate so many caring activities throughout the year. Some of these activities include Meals on Wheels delivery, Camp Reece support, Easter lilies, monthly visitations for shut-ins, transportation for those in need to either healthcare appointments or to church, Reach Out and Touch posters are made and given, as well as many cards are sent to show our church family love in times of joy, congratulations and, of course, sadness. The Deacons coordinate these activities and are so grateful for the willingness by so many of you volunteers who help make these many gestures of Christian love possible. Thank you, dear ones.

A special thank you, also, to Pastor Herb Yoder, our visitation pastor. He works with the Deacons and does a wonderful job of dropping in on some of our church family members. His visits give great comfort to those under his care. We’re so fortunate to have him sharing God’s love to others.

Now . . . “Extending the Table” may sound new to you . . . and it is! Pastor Bill encouraged the Deacons to use this wonderful phrase. It refers to the monthly Deacons’ visits in which Communion is shared with our friends at the UP Home, Halcyon House, and to a few individuals in their homes. We have Communion here the first Sunday of each month in our chapel and in our sanctuary. Within the following week the Deacons “Extend the Table” and offer Communion to those unable to physically join us on Sunday. It is a very meaningful time for us, as Deacons, as well as for those we visit. “Extending the Table” is just one more way the gift of God’s love and His salvation is shared with all of God’s children.

WELCOME new members



WELCOME to our new members Erika Davis and Brandon Bishop!
We are beyond thrilled and blessed they have chosen to be part of our church family!

Erika is the daughter of Barb Tornow and older sister to Jackson Davis. She graduated from Sigourney High School and then attended the University of Iowa and Western Illinois University. Currently she is a Speech-Language Pathologist for Grant Wood Area Education Agency. She loves to read and cook during her free time.

Brandon is the son of Kathy and Cameron Bishop and older brother to Kelsey Bishop. He graduated from Washington High School and is an alumni of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He currently works for BlackHawk Soil Services and enjoys rooting on the Iowa Hawkeyes and Green Bay Packers, as well as spending time outdoors.

THANK YOU from AAUW:

The members of the American Association of University Women send a huge thank you to all those of you at the United Presbyterian Church for sharing your Fellowship Hall, kitchen, piano, and sound system. On November 14th over 100 people attended the AAUW hosted National Honor Society Reception for students and parents in your lovely church. We’re so grateful for your generosity and for the extra special help of Kevin Caldwell and Butch Zwicky. Many thanks again in 2017 to YOU from the members of AAUW.

Hello, Presbyterians!

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was elected October 29. The committee met that day at 11:50 in the church library. During the meeting the committee met Martha Wiley who is our representative from the Commission on Ministry (COM). Martha distributed a list of "13 General steps for a pastor search". We learned that we will create an MIF that will be approved by the COM and UPS, then posted on line, then matched with PIF documents. (Look for explanations of those and many more abbreviations in future updates!) During this meeting, Ed was chosen as convener, Emily as recorder, and Lynn as communicator (which is the reason I am writing this!) It was decided that regular meeting time will be the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings will be held to one hour as often as possible!

The second meeting of the PNC was held on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00, in the church library. There was discussion of the "General steps for a pastor search", including timeline for preparing our MIF, activities that will require travel, and how that is provided for by the session, what information should be confidential and what can be shared. Ed distributed a copy of the results of the Congregation Conversation held in September. The group expects that information to be helpful for discussion and preparing an MIF. The need for references was also discussed, and members were urged to consider possible references. The next meeting will be November 28th.

Blessings, PNC Team (Ed Raber, Jordan Youngman, Julie Johnson, Emily Burroughs, Jim Cuddeback, Katie Lujan, Krista Gaal, Lynn Loula)



the saturday kitchen



hosted and see that the Lord is good!

Update on Nov. 11th and 2018 Plans:

On November 11th our UPC Family hosted the Saturday Kitchen. We have such a fabulous "crew" and once again we hosted nearly 100 people for food and fellowship. THANK YOU TO YOU, OUR UP CHURCH FAMILY, for your caring in serving others in God's love – once again.

2018 will be another good year for the Saturday Kitchen - the EXCITING NEWS IS WE HAVE NEW HOSTS! We have the six churches which have been in our regular rotation since the Saturday Kitchen began: First Baptist, Immanuel Lutheran, St. James Catholic, United Methodist, our United Presbyterian, and Washington Mennonite. Now the LDS/Mormon and Assembly of God Churches, the latter with Tues. AM Optimist group are taking some times, also. We are thrilled to have the HACAP Board, our Pathfinders adult Sunday School class, and three local PEO chapters return as hosts again in 2017, but also joining them are our friends at Halcyon House, the Wash. County Hospital and Clinics and the Prairie Pride 4-H group as 2018 hosts.

We are so blessed here in Washington to have so many caring groups wanting to be a part of the special, Saturday Kitchen Ministry. Questions? Contact Joe or Marde McConnell 653-3884 or mcconnellmj@mchsi.com

MISSION NEWS

HACAP has been a program the UP Church has been proud to support for years. 1 out of every 20 families in Southeast Iowa have low access to proper nutrition. Through donations from committees and individuals from the church, we are able to supply boxes of food to those in need. We have been able to donate 34 boxes of food since July. Through your continual generosity of food donations we will be able to help families in the community receive proper nutrition.



Another way you can help families during this holiday season is participating the **Adopt-a-Family** program. More than 250 Eastern Iowa families are waiting to be adopted right now. When you adopt a family, you purchase gifts for the individual family members that they would not be able to receive otherwise. If you would like to participate in the Adopt-a-Family program, please contact Jordan Youngman (youngmanj72@gmail.com) by **December 10th**!

THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

At the U P Church – Pastor’s Office



SUNDAYS DEC. 3rd and 10th

Open in the mornings before and after worship services

Additional hours:

Dec. 5 & 7 Tuesday / Thursday - 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Dec. 9 Saturday - 8:00 – 9:30 am

AVAILABLE FOR SALE:

HANDMADE ITEMS from numerous countries



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®

GIFTS THAT GIVE TWICE®

Fair Trade Retailer Since 1946

and ***DONATION OPPORTUNITIES***
for Heifer and HACAP and Passur Boy’s School

Plan to stop by and support these mission projects as you shop for gifts!

Session Update

The November session meeting was held on Wednesday the 15th just a little over a week before Thanksgiving and for devotions Joe McConnell gave a history on the Original Thanksgiving followed by prayer. The reading left all with some food for thought and remembering all we have to be thankful for.

January 2, 2017 we welcomed Rev. William Warhover as our Interim Pastor. Seeing as we are nearing the end of the year, we looked back to where we were a year ago- the work accomplished, and the work left to be done. The Session has come together, working extra hours and getting much accomplished, and thanked Bill for his leadership. It is time to wrap up the old year and look to 2018.

The Session approved a Congregational meeting for December 3, 2017 following the 10:30 service for the purpose of electing officers. Session also approved a new contract for Rev. Warhover as Interim Pastor which will be sent to the Presbytery of East Iowa for their approval.

For 2018: The Session has set the dates for communion and the annual worship/ picnic at Lake Darling (August 26, 2018); the Pastor Nominating Committee will be hard at work (with the guidance of the Holy Spirit) to call a new Pastor for our church; and we look forward to an exciting year for the United Presbyterian Church with our vision of “transforming lives by sharing our experience of God’s love and acceptance.”

Remember as you make your plans for the Christmas holidays that there will be NO 8:00 morning service on Sunday, Dec. 24. There will be a 10:30 morning service and a 7:00 evening service.

Blessings to all.
Kay Hall, Clerk of Session



Alice Elgin
November 25th



The Feed & Read Book Club will next meet on **Thursday December 21st** at 11:45 am in the Church Library.



New Activity Bags

Thanks to all those who helped to create the new, colorful, kids’ activity bags. Katie Lujan and Marde McConnell donated the fun fabric, Kathy Knutson and Janice Flory did all the meticulous sewing and our Jessica Canny created the cute signage. The Lujan family also provided all the new activity items and books. This is just another way we show how much we love our kids!



Presbyterian Women Christmas Tea will be Wednesday December 6th at 1:30pm.

The theme is “We Remember” and all are invited!



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 news to Jessica in the office!

This past month Ed Lins repainted the pre-school/choir bathroom. A huge improvement was made – check it out! Thanks, Ed, for caring and sharing your time.

The UPC movie night was a very fun time - a huge thank you to all those of you who helped to make possible our 2nd Annual Movie Night – great time with our church family, cute movie and lots of yummy treats and popcorn. Thanks again to those who planned this fun evening!

Joyce Wilson assists the Deacons in sending out get-well, sympathy, congratulations, thinking of you and special birthday cards for 90 year olds. Joyce has sent a total of 73 notes so far in 2017! Thank you, Joyce, for reaching out in love and caring for us and from us, her church family.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Linda Boston | 24 Dyann Graber |
| 2 Nick Shelman | 24 Cyrus Graber |
| 2 Phyllis VanGerpen | 24 Ian Maize |
| 3 Marcus Henry | 24 Sue Reed |
| 3 Henry Tompkins | 25 Zoe Kane |
| 5 Emma Alderton | 26 Kylee Porter |
| 5 Jim Buitendorp | 26 Erin Thorius |
| 7 Lois Holland | 26 Colton Twinam |
| 9 Rachel Sands | 27 Austin Knupp |
| 10 Blaine Rees | 27 Arnold Waring |
| 12 Barry Johnson | 28 Alecia Goff |
| 13 Lisa Buitendorp | 28 Cate Schiefer |
| 15 Alicia Mackey | 29 Dorothy Koehler-Yoder |
| 15 Harry Rader | 30 Beckett Miller |
| 16 Kaitlin Buchholz | 30 Gary Pump |
| 18 Kristin Schell | 30 Emory VanGerpen |
| 19 Jamie Rich | 30 Lorraine Williams |
| 20 Chayse Jaspering | 31 Ada Kleese |
| 20 Sarah Robison | 31 Jayse Thorius |
| 21 Joe McConnell | |
| 22 William Guenther | |

Landscaping Information!



Yes, there will be additional plantings south of the Fellowship Hall window! Due to fall, plant availability not all planting was able to take place. The additional

plantings will take place this spring – something to look forward to! Thanks for your positive comments and enthusiasm for ALL the outdoor, landscaping projects.

The Church will be closed Monday
December 25th in observance of
Christmas.

CLOSED

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!