

UPChurch

Love God. Love Others.

February 2018

www.upcwash.org



CREW: Cole Anderson, Collin Tanner, James Strabala, Henry Raber, Gabe Bruns, Makenna Conrad, Ally Rees, Haley Mitchell, Kaylin Long, Alecia Goff, Bailey Rees, Payton Anderson, Maci Williams, and Abby Kleese

QUAKE
YOUTH ENCOUNTERING THE GOSPEL

February Highlights

1st Mobile Food Pantry
2nd Confirmation Retreat
8th Chix/Biscuit Supper
9th Night to Shine

11th Potato Bar
14th Ash Wednesday Service
20th Finance
21st Session
24th Sat Kitchen-US!



In the winter, when she is not farming, my wife Donna works part time at Mt Vernon Confectioners making chocolate. Recently there has been much conversation about what to do about Valentine's Day which falls this year on Ash Wednesday. Do we make as much candy? Do we change our marketing? And on it goes.

One of the patrons of the store is a retired Episcopal Priest who has been helping them think through this dilemma and pronounced that it was acceptable even advisable to mix our chocolate eating with our Lenten preparations for Easter.

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them ... So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you ... And whenever you pray do not be like the hypocrite ..And when you fast, do not look dismal, ..." (Matthew 6)

"Taste and see that the Lord is good..." (Psalm 34)

Ash Wednesday, the front door of Lent, does invite us into a season of preparation for Easter. It asks us to look within and measure where we are in our relationship with Jesus. It invites us to be intentional in offering gratitude as we reflect on the gift that God gives us in Jesus. It calls us to intentionally develop or refine the spiritual practices (prayer, scripture/devotion readings, service) that will be transformative to us.

At Mt Vernon Confectioners they have decided they will be serving fish on Fridays. You can get two different kinds, dark or milk chocolate.

Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day and a meaningful Lenten journey. Pastor Bill



An Ash Wednesday service will be held in the chapel on February 14 at 6:30. Ash Wednesday invites us into Lent a time of preparing before we remember what Christ has done for us (Holy Week) and what Christ will do for us (Easter). Ashes will be imposed as a part of this service.

Church Contacts

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**Kingdom Kids
Preschool**

Brenda Miles
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Can you hear the hallways talking? Can you feel the exuberance bouncing off the walls? Is there excitement on the air about where our church is going in the future?

I was recently in a gathering with several friends from our congregation. I was listening to the conversation around the group and watching reactions as things were being said. One person was talking about how our church use to be. They said it was always so busy and robust. The Sanctuary was packed every Sunday, the robes of the Pastor, the choir, and the acolytes made it so impressive. They loved getting dressed up each week to come to church to see all their friends, to listen to the organ, the choir, and the preacher.

Another person in the group was smiling and chimed in on how great that must have been, and commented on how it might be to return to those days, like church was when they were growing up. They commented on how things have changed since then. They mentioned how they really like things just the way they are now, and how they want their kids to grow up in the same church they did.

There were a few younger people in the group that day. They remained quiet, but listening intently to the how great the church has been in the past. After the group broke up and folks began heading home, I approached one of the younger folks and asked what they thought of the conversation they had just heard. The response was sobering. They agreed it was good to hear about what the church was at one time, but not one word was mentioned about what the church was going to be in the future. The past was great, the present is good, the future of our church was given no consideration, no time, no thought.

What is the future of our church? **Where** is the future of our church? Do you see it visible anywhere? Is it part of exciting conversations during fellowship around the coffee cart? Do we see the future of our church in the pews on Sunday morning? Do our worship gatherings, programs, and resources reflect the future of our church, or just the past?

Jesus was an agent of change in his day. The Pharisees were the religious people in power during that time, and they had everything just how they wanted it. They had power over people's lives. They controlled religious thought. They held themselves in high esteem as prestigious leaders of the religious community. They disliked Jesus and everything he stood for, because he threatened their security, prestige and even their income. His popularity, His talk of the kingdom, His affirmation that He was the Messiah threatened the very core of their existence.

People in power always feel threatened by the possibility of change, even (or maybe especially) in the church. Change creates uncertainty. It takes the current standard and turns it upside down. Change in the church is hard work. And it's not for the faint of heart. But change can turn a church from going down a dead-end road, to creating a new highway that will carry it into the future. Jesus and His teachings must never change. God's truth and love for us will never change. But the church must never stop changing. It must remain relative. It must remain positive for the future, and it must do all in can, and more, to get the gospel to the world of tomorrow.



Thank you for your cards and kind words after the death of my daughter Hannah's husband, Nick Martin, who passed away January 21, 2018. Julie Zahs



THANK YOU from the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Committee!

Total money brought in 2017: \$18,406
That's \$2,568 MORE than 2016!

February 2-3: Confirmation Retreat

For Confirmation this year we will be having a retreat at Crooked Creek Christian Camp. This will be an opportunity for the Confirmands to retreat away from busyness and technology and spend a little time exploring questions of faith, playing some interactive games, and in general given some time to rest and take a few deep breaths.

As a reminder, here is a list of the Confirmands as well as their mentors and parents. Please be keeping them in your prayers as they work together throughout the Confirmation process.

Sydney Cuddeback Mentor: Megan Schiebel Parents: Jeff & April
Sophia Kleese Mentor: Teresa Anderson Parents: Tracy & Amy
Dawson Schluetter Mentor: Tracy Strabala Parents: Dave & Angie
Drake Schluetter Mentor: Krista Gaal Parents: Dave & Angie
Jack Strabala Mentor: Scott Lujan Parents: Brian & Tracy
Kaitlyn Mitchell Mentor: Ericka Raber Parents: Dave & Shari
Alexa Mitchell Mentor: Christy Buchholz Parents: Dave & Shari
Kiki Guo Bruner Mentor: Emily Burroughs Parents: Philip & Amy
Roy Carter Mentor: Jeff Cuddeback Parents: John & Kim
Gabby Anderson Mentor: Julie Johnson Parents: Terry & Heather

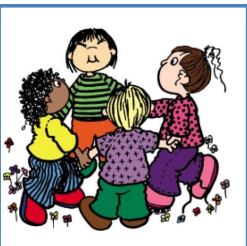


INSIDE OUT (Senior High Ministry)

February 4: 5:30pm @ the Thorius' house to watch the SuperBowl
 February 11: 6:30pm @ UP Church
 February 18: 6:30pm @ UP Church
 February 25: 6:30pm @ UP Church

CREW (Middle School Ministry)

February 4: 3:30pm @ UP Church
 February 18: 3:30pm @ UP Church



The Kingdom Kids

The Kingdom Kids enjoyed a few days of snow play in January, along with a few days of riding trikes in fellowship hall. We are so thankful for the spaces we have here at the church. We have been exploring winter and different kinds of transportation in January. February will bring Dental Health and Valentine's Day. We have welcomed a regular volunteer to our team as Irazu Barrasa Cruz joins our classroom each day to learn and play. She is learning English with us and is a great translator to our Hispanic parents. As we look to next year, we will begin taking registrations in February. Kingdom Kids will continue to offer morning classes for four year olds and older three year olds. Please continue to pray for our students, their families, and our staff as we begin the second half of our year.

There are 3 different opportunities with a variety of experiences to get involved in sharing God's love this month.

1. There is a mission trip out of state that the Presbytery of Eastern Iowa is setting up. Many people have been devastated by Hurricane Harvey. They will be going April 14-21. The cost is \$100 plus food and the reward is helping in God's work to people that have been so shattered by the hurricane. For more specific information you can call Sarah Hegar at (319) 217-9444. You can register at <http://fullercenter.org/disaster-rebuilders/>.
2. There is another opportunity locally to assist with the Night to Shine which is sponsored by Tim Tebow Foundation for a prom for people with special needs. It is scheduled for 2/9/18 from 6-9pm. They are wanting to have more than 200 volunteers for it. There are 2 training days (you only need to come to 1): 1/30 at 6 pm and 2/3 at 9 am. Here is the website in you would like more information: www.timtebowfoundation.org. If you want to volunteer please contact Kara Williams at 319-458-9427.
3. The final opportunity to help others is the diaper and cardboard book drive that we are having for Family Connection. This organization assists new parents in learning parenting skills like how to care for an infant and the importance of reading and playing with children. In the process of working with these families, they give the parents diapers or books to open the door to them and allow them to work with these parents. We will have a play pen that you can donate to in February.

We have so many different ways that we can show God's love in us and in others. Please contact Karen Dillon with any questions.



the saturday kitchen

taste and see that the Lord is good!

We hosted the Sat. Kitchen on Dec. 30 and, as always, you folks stepped up to help, even some on very short notice! Due to the Coakley family having the flu a day or so before "our Saturday," we were blessed when the Shane and Teresa Anderson family came to the rescue! As always, a very special thanks to ALL involved!!

Due to the cold weather, our numbers have been down some, which has happened in previous years. However, we know they will pick up with the warmer temperatures.

By the way, when you receive this there will have been a Coordinators lunch on Monday, Jan. 29th at the church. Jennine Wolf of the Washington County Environmental Health Department will give a short presentation about food safety. This will be followed by a time for participants to share their experiences in hosting the Saturday Kitchen. Lastly, there will be a time for questions from the many host groups that will be represented.

If you have questions or would like to help when our church family hosts in the future: Contact Joe or Marde McConnell: Call: 653-3884 or email at 1221mcconnell@gmail.com.

SHARE YOUR LOVE

Extending the fellowship and love of our church family with those who have difficulty in leaving their homes, is one of the ministries of our Board of Deacons. As we go to folks in their own homes, hopefully this will help them to continue to feel that they are a valued part of our church family! We have around 25 folks in our congregation that are in this situation. We would like for you to consider being a part of this team of folks who visit one or two people each month.

As we go to them, may we share the hospitality and love that Christ commanded us to go and do! There is a signup sheet in fellowship hall where you can stop by and select a person, and sign up to visit monthly. Also, if you know of someone that would like to be on our visitation list, let us know by contacting contact Deacons Kathy Knutson or Mary Atwood.
Thank you for serving out Lord in this way!

Are You Needing a Ride To Church? Are you finding it difficult to drive to church, church activities, or to a local doctor's appointment? If that is happening with you, let the Deacons help arrange for someone to drive you! The team leader of transportation for the deacons is Dale Spencer. So, just give Dale a call at 319-461-7453 and he will make arrangements so that will happen!

Are You Able to Provide a Ride? Are you feeling a call to serve by providing transportation for folks who can no longer drive? Are you willing to drive someone to church or to a church activity----maybe to a doctor's appointment—or just for a short outing? There is a signup sheet in fellowship where you can indicate of your willingness to that. You may also contact Dale Spencer at a 319-461-7453 and let him know of your willingness to share your gifts in serving others in this way



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!





The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) met on January 9 and 23. We continue to work on step #8 of our “General steps for a pastor search”, which is...to prepare a MIF (Ministry Information Forms) that will be posted on line...The MIF will include a general range for terms of call, i.e. salary and benefits”.

At these meetings we especially focused on five “narrative questions” which are part of a worksheet we have been working with.

The first question is, “What is the congregation’s vision for ministry?” Our answer is based upon the vision from the Congregational Conversations held in September, which is, “Transforming lives by sharing the experience of God’s love and acceptance.” Characteristics of our congregation related to this vision are: loving, welcoming, serving, nurturing and generous.

The next question is, “How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community?” Our discussion resulted in a list of ways our congregation has reached out, which includes: Saturday Kitchen, mission trips, our relationship with the UP home, and participation in community projects such as HACAP, Camp Reese and Habitat for Humanity.

The third question is, “How will this position help you to reach your mission and goals?” Some of what we included in this answer are: collaboration skills, interpersonal engagement, trustworthiness and initiative to remind us to continue to live out our vision and mission.

The fourth question is,” Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation.” The answer came from a previous activity where we chose ten leadership competencies: compassion, preaching, worship leadership, spiritual maturity, public communicating, risk taking, collaborating, using strategy and vision, flexibility, and interpersonal engaging. The characteristics of our congregation listed above are also part of this answer.

Question five is, “For what specific tasks, assignments and program areas will this person have responsibility?” Our answer is to moderate the session and to lead the staff.

The work of the PNC is now to flesh out and add explanations to these five answers; each answer is to be no more than 1500 characters. At our February meetings our goal is to continue this work before the Session meets, hoping the Session will approve our MIF at that meeting. The next step will be for the COM (Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery) to approve the MIF and post it on line. Then The COM will begin the process of matching our MIF with PIF (Pastor Information Forms) documents prepared by pastor candidates.

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



Current procedures for the building in the evening are as follows:

- All lights are off inside the building (including **in** the entryways)
- Only lights left on are the ones *outside* of the building at the entrances
- Doors must be locked (check the crash bar handle)

Please check the doors behind you when you leave to ensure they are both closed properly and locked.

Session Update

January 17, 2018 was the first session meeting of the New Year. Members welcomed the incoming class of 2020: Brad Alderton, Travis Moore, Erikca Raber, and youth elder, Lincoln Kleese.

Randy Fehr was unable to attend as he is wintering in Arizona.

A copy of the Church Report for the 2017 year was reviewed and approved. The report will be in the annual report which will be available at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, following the 10:30 service. You may also stop in the office for a copy.

Also approved was the Unified Mission Pledge for 2018, re-appointment of Clerk of Session (Kay Hall) and the time/date for ordination and installation of new session members. After some discussion there were assignments made to the various Committees and Teams for 2018. The complete listing will be included in the Annual Report.

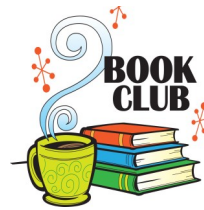
There was a lot of discussion as session worked to prioritize tasks for 2018. #1 on the list is being able to install a permanent pastor, #2 is complete the sanctuary project, #3 to adopt the vision/brand and fellowship (young families), and #4 is outreach in the community.

The treasurer's report showed good news for 2017. Total income was \$300,135 and total expenses were \$283,743. While this is very good news, we have to be mindful that (hopefully) sometime this year we will have a full-time permanent pastor installed, which will add to the budget expense for 2018.

There were reports from several of the session areas so look for their updates included in this newsletter.



**Articles for the
March newsletter are
due Wednesday,
February 21st.**



The Feed & Read Book Club will next meet on **Thursday, February 15** at 11:45 am in the Church Library.



**Presbyterian
Women Monthly Meeting**
will be Wednesday, February 14th in the UP Home at 9am.

Connect with us on Facebook:



"Washington United Presbyterian Church"

"The CROSSing Washington, Iowa"

"Kingdom Kids Preschool
Washington Iowa"



Lost & Found

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



*December 28th
Walter Gowan*

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.



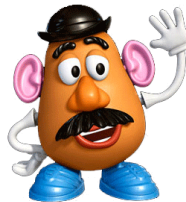
1 George Fulton	18 Eliana Martin
1 Megan Mitchell	18 Dolores Wood
3 Sawyer Whisler	20 Jacob Baughman
4 Peggy Gerot	20 Lincoln Kleese
4 Tim Trotman	21 Annagrace Goeke
4 Gracie Walker	21 Isaac Rich
6 Ethel Moothart	22 Alice Martin
7 Grace Schiebel	22 Ella Walker
8 Ellen Twinam	23 Amanda Burke
9 Terry Anderson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

Church Family News . . . just so you know!

A very special thank you is given to Peyton, Sydney and Halle Cuddeback! They very willingly folded and put together all the new, cardboard, building blocks for the little kiddos that have fun playing in the church nursery. This was no small task and we're grateful for their time helping with this project.

Have you ever wondered who decorates the six Fellowship Hall tables? We have Mary Atwood to thank for sharing her time and creativity in helping to make the Fellowship Hall tables look so attractive and inviting – month after month after month!

One Sunday morning Brad Alderton was caught scooping the snow off the church sidewalks - making it much more safe for us to walk into the church. Many thanks, Brad, for seeing a need and taking care of it!



It's Back – Potato Bar Fund Raiser and Talent Show of Fabulous Entertainers: Feb. 11th

The very popular and fun POTATO BAR FUND RAISER for our church Relay for Life Team, Team UP and Friends, is coming up following worship Sunday, Feb. 11th. This is a great opportunity to have a meal “out” and to help in the fight against cancer. There will be warm, baked potatoes with every topping you can imagine, in addition to yummy desserts. This is definitely an event you're not going to want to miss!

Of course, the best part will be the entertainment from the creative and talented kids and youth of our church family. There the will be singing and instrument playing as well as joke, poem and/or riddle telling and perhaps other “talents” from the pre-schoolers to high schoolers in our church family. Hopefully we can have a little juggling or maybe even a magic trick? Regardless of the specific entertainment, whatever is shared will warm your heart!

Parents, please contact Jess at the church office (653-6588) or Marde McConnell (653-3884) if you have an entertainer willing to share their “talent.”

Having talked with Terry Anderson, who was our fabulous Master of Ceremonies in 2017, he has some new ideas up his sleeve for 2018. Come and see what Terry has planned, support the kids and youth of our church, enjoy yummy food and this special time with others in your church family AND finally - help in the fight against cancer!

