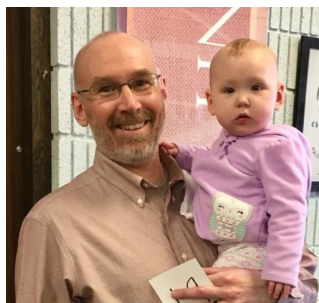
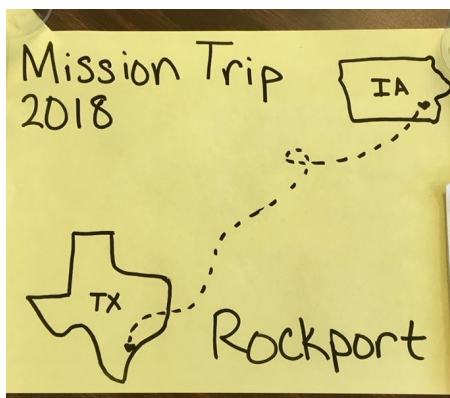


UP Church

Love God. Love Others.

April 2018



April Highlights

April 1st Communion/Easter/One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
April 5th Mobile Food Pantry
April 12th Blood Drive

April 16th Mission Meeting
Weeks of April 16, 23, 30 Meals on Wheels!
April 18th Session/Confirmant Supper
April 19th Book Club
April 30th Deacons



From the Pastor...

While the winter solstice in December brings us the news of Jesus' birth, "the light shining in the darkness," the beginning of spring brings us the news of Jesus' resurrection, of life coming from deadness.

Spring is filled with resurrection reminders; the crocus creeping slowly out of their winter slumber, the browns and grays of fall giving way to a palate of greens, the birds nesting – keeping watch over their flock by night, and the tadpoles lying in shallow waters doing the work of becoming frogs.

Spring is filled with resurrection reminders. New life coming from the midst of deadness.

Paul has this in mind when he writes to the church in Roman:

Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. (Romans 6:3-4)

On April 22nd we will be baptizing and confirming members of the Confirmation class. When we do this, each of us will be reminded of our baptisms and how that baptism is meant to be transformative - meant to be a resurrection reminder - that even now something new is being born within us.



Have a blessed Easter, Pastor Bill

Sanctuary Project Update!

Well it has been two steps forward and one step back on the sanctuary project in March. The good news was that we were close to getting the audio and visual components of the project done and then as they were adding some of the final equipment we took a step back. The sound had to be recalibrated in the Sanctuary and then there were problems with the computer and the cameras communicating with the live streaming version of our service causing mostly problems for those attending at the UP Home. Butch has been working with Matt of Eyes and Ears Audio Visual to get these problems worked out.



Good news too, is that the lighting fixtures have arrived and as I write this to you today the contractor and the electrician are both working to hang the new lighting in the Sanctuary.

We continue to work with the contractor to make sure that everything is both installed and operating properly. Thanks for your patience in this project. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns on this project. Pastor Bill

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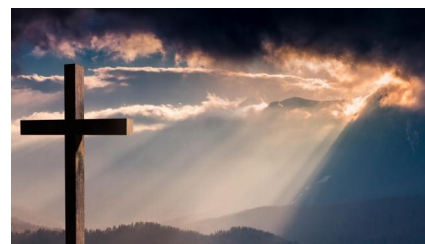
Easter is a great time to stop and think about our spiritual lives, and where we are on our journey with Christ. Through all the celebration and festivities of the day, we are reminded of God's overwhelming power. His love for us is beyond all our understanding.

On Easter, we come together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We come with great hope for renewed life, our sins forgiven. We come to glorify God and praise the Name of our risen King. Out of Christ's unending love comes our redemption. So, we walk into Easter like we walk into Christ, with strong faith and courage, with joy and a restored belief in the promise of everlasting life, and with a renewed commitment to turn our eyes and our hearts to Christ.

In Romans 8, Paul writes,

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Join us for Easter. It could change everything!



ONLINE *giving*

Have you noticed?! Updates are being made daily to our Church website!

The newest feature is our online giving option! You can now set up a one-time donation or opt for a recurring donation that will automatically make your donation for you.

You can access this feature on the main page under "Welcome to United Presbyterian Church" or on the "Mission" page. Just select the "Click Here" text.

Call or email the office with any questions!

Beginning April 2, during normal business hours, the only doors that will be unlocked will be the door off the south parking lot (Washington Street side). The north side and east side doors will be locked.

This will change as different groups, activities, or events dictate.

Please let us know if you have questions. Pastor Bill and Jessica.



Per Capita

You may have noticed you didn't receive a per capita letter this year—that is not a mistake!! We're using the newsletters, bulletins, and potentially email at a later date to relay the information to you!

Contact the office with any questions.
2018 Per Capita is \$37 per person. Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Sign up for Flocknote! This special messaging program is specifically designed to help churches communicate with its members. Flocknote sends messages via text and/or email and you are able to choose which you prefer. To sign up, just text the keyword "upwash" to the number 84576, or see Jared for more info.





Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday is April 22. Please join us as we celebrate the journey that these students have embarked upon and are continuing to follow. The students will be confirmed at the 10:30 worship service, followed by a time of fellowship and cake!

Senior Scholarships

High School Seniors, be on the lookout in your mailbox (like the actual physical one at the end of your driveway, not your email) for a letter regarding multiple church scholarship opportunities!



INSIDE OUT

(Senior High Ministry)

April 1: No Sunday evening youth activities in honor of Easter

April 8: 6:30pm @ UP Church

April 15: 6:30pm @ UP Church

April 22: 6:30pm @ UP Church

April 29: 6:30pm @ UP Church

CREW

(Middle School Ministry)

April 1: No Sunday evening youth activities in honor of Easter

April 8: 3:30pm @ UP Church - Kewash Trail Clean-Up

April 22: No meeting this Sunday because of Confirmation

Son City

(Elementary Sunday School Ministry)

In April we will be looking at the parable of the Prodigal Son. This is a well-known passage that emphasizes God's great love and grace for His children as well as the Lord's heart for those that have made some questionable choices but who desire to (re)establish their relationship with God.



The Kingdom Kids

The Kingdom Kids have been enjoying the early Spring weather as we play outside, looking for signs of Spring. The year is coming to a close quickly as students attend Kindergarten Roundup, we plan for our spring concert, and prepare for the end of the year field trips. We are also planning and preparing for next year as we take registrations for Fall. Now is the time to sign up, so if you know of families with 4 year olds, please be sure they are "in the loop" and informed that preschool in Washington is state funded for children who turn 4 on or before Sept. 15. Kingdom Kids also accepts five year olds, and older three year olds.

Any questions??? Please call Brenda Miles - 319-461-4327 or leave a message with Jess in the office and I will call you back. Thanks for your continued support, prayers, and words of encouragement. Brenda



Washington Against Hunger - May 6th, 3 pm at the KC Hall

There will be food packing for HACAP-which is for the local branch in Washington- and also for Take Away Hunger- which has a branch in Mount Pleasant (used to be in Brighton)-but distributes food throughout the world. This involves the churches in Washington that come together to help those in need.

TAKE AWAY HUNGER DAY

Take Away Hunger involves measuring and packaging specialized rice based soy casserole into bags that can be easily transported to feed the world. Their mission is to mobilize cities to feed nations.

Since January, they have made 941,520 meals. HACAP has a great need of food in the summer months when children are home from school. HACAP's main branch in Marion-which Washington is a part of- distributes over 6 million pounds of food to individuals annually. Please come and be a part of this fun and important outreach event in our community.



Have you checked out the "Thank You" poster in fellowship that was made by Sallie Graves? Sallie is thanking her church family and others in the community for the many prayers and acts of kindness that were bestowed upon her following her car accident.

When we reach out to others, we are truly being the Hands and Feet of Christ. It is helpful in the healing of the physical body as well as the Spiritual body.

As situations arise, the Deacon's will have a "Reach Out and Touch" poster on a table in Fellowship Hall. This

provides each of you an opportunity to sign and write a note to those in need. Is this a way you could be the Hands and Feet of Jesus?



Our church family mourns the passing of a longtime friend, Jim Stiles. Jim was a valuable asset to our community and was involved in many mission/charity events. Most recently he organized the Salvation Army bell ringers and the prom night, "A Night to Shine".



A huge thank you and hooray from your Mission Team to all of you who were able to add to our Diaper / Board Book Drive for the Family Connection in February!

Thanks to your generosity we were able to deliver 27 packages of diapers (that's 1,620 diapers), 27 packages of baby wipes, and 101 board books of all sizes, titles and subjects!

These gifts will be used as incentive awards for those families who receive services from this valuable county agency. They are so grateful for our help and we know that lots of little ones in our community will benefit from dry bottoms and new stimulus in learning. Thanks again!

.....

THANK YOU to Dave at Fareway for giving us food for HACAP at a reduced cost!!!!

Let us go to them!

Visiting in the homes of people in our church family who cannot come to join us at the church building, is one of the most meaningful ways the church can show compassion and love! These individuals may be cut off from the church's fellowship due to age, medical condition, or other reasons. It requires no in-depth theological knowledge, no financial cost is involved, and it does not take hours of your time. One may be nervous about visiting that first time, but it is God who has called us to this task, and God will certainly equip us for it.

From the earliest days of its being, the church has been concerned with caring for those within the fellowship of the church with various needs. We can model Jesus' compassion for those folks by going to them in their homes...

Each month, six of our deacons, five volunteers from our congregation, and our pastors call on twenty seven to thirty folks from our church family who are in these situations. We strive to extend the hospitality, joy, and love of Christ to them. We visit folks at Halcyon House(Apartments, Arbor House, Sagewood, and Wedgewood), the UP Home (Brownlee Health Center, Garret Health Center, Stewart Hall, Sherman Hall, Kerr Hall, Cottages), at the Colonial Manor in Columbus Junction ,and in four private homes.

One of our congregational volunteers often says after her monthly visit, "I feel I get so much more from my visit, then I could possibly begin to have given to her." Caring was the hallmark of Jesus' ministry and should be a hallmark of ours!



the saturday kitchen

taste and see that the Lord is good

Our late February Saturday Kitchen event was well-attended with over 80 meals served and 26 take-outs given. Our menu was ham; cheesy broccoli rice casserole; carrot chips with dip; fresh fruit cup and brownies, with a gluten sensitive dessert option.

THANK YOU to those of you who once again gave your time to reach out in caring- together showing how we love God and love others.

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.

It's True, a March Saturday Kitchen, too!

Due to unforeseen circumstances by one of the host churches, our UPC hosted the Saturday Kitchen again on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th!!

Joe and I are truly grateful to all those in our church family who stepped up to help with our noon meal and who did so on rather short notice! We were pleased to see some new faces helping, too.

Once again things ran very smoothly and our guests received a delicious noon meal. Not only did they enjoy nutritious food but they enjoyed having the fellowship with each other and with us, as their hosts! Thank you to each of you once again on March 17th and, by the way, our next host date is May 19th, if you want to mark your calendars. Please let us know of your interest in helping. Marde and Joe

The Pastor Nominating Committee finished work on the Ministry Information Forms in early March. The Session and then the Commission of Ministry approved the MIF and it was officially posted online.

Pastor Information Forms have been matched with our MIF and sent by email to Julie Johnson who has forwarded them to all PNC members.

As of this writing, eleven PIFs have been received. The members have individually carefully read all these PIFs. Martha Wiley, our liaison to the COM, suggested that each member rank each PIF as:

- (1) for those in whom we are very interested,
- (2) for those in whom we have some interest and
- (3) for those we do not wish to consider further.

We will meet every Tuesday until all PIFs have been read and evaluated and the interest of our higher ranked prospective pastors has been ascertained. Then we may request additional materials from prospective pastors, interview, check references and, eventually, meet prospective pastors in their ministry settings.

The PNC is excited to have reached this stage of our search. We ask for the congregation to join with us in prayer for the care and wisdom to find the pastor to lead us forward as we seek to achieve our vision: Transforming lives by sharing the experience of God's love and acceptance.

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



Thank you for the expression of kindness shown the past month during my injury. I greatly appreciate the cards, food, prayers, etc sent my way. Kay Hall

Thank you for all the prayers and cards I received during my recent knee surgery. A special thank you to Mary Atwood, Kathy Knutson, and Ed Lins for providing rides to physical therapy. I appreciate everyone's kindness, concern and help. Joyce Wilson



Church Informational Class Offering

The Welcoming Team is exploring the possibility of offering an informational class about our church and its varied activities and programs – as together our church family is led to “Love God and Love Others.”

Specifics on class times are still flexible. Please feel free to contact Pastor Bill, Marde McConnell, or Jessica at the church office with questions or if interested in this class offering.



Church Family News . . . just so you know!

A very special **thank you** to Angie and Dave Schluetter for so graciously coordinating and hosting the “welcome to our church family reception” for Ken Wulf.

For those of us who tend to be intimidated by some of the technology in our lives these days, I know we’re all grateful to the wonderful people who work “behind the scenes” each Sunday recording our service and taking care of the audio and visual parts, too. Did you know that Noah Rich, who’s probably just in middle school at WACO, is one of those very capable people? **Many thanks to Noah and all the adults who work “behind the scenes” each Sunday!!**

Dylann Schluetter has recently successfully completed her National Guard training and her specialized training in transportation and will be home by March 24 for the WHS Alumni Basketball Game. We appreciate her commitment to support our country in this way.

We also want to very much recognize Jacob Baughman who is currently full-time in the Marines as a Lance Corporal and is stationed in North Carolina. We are grateful to Jacob for his commitment to defending our country and for his service in the Marines.

Thank you to Dylann, Jacob and all those others who are or who have served in a military branch of service, you are making our country a safer place. Your commitment has not gone unnoticed.



1 Felix Loula
2 Addison Gaal
2 Joe Wright
2 Anne Youngman
3 Cathy Whisler
4 Natalie Prochaska
4 Ericka Raber
6 Braden Gaal

6 Dawn Ledger
6 Ryan Tinnes
7 Jacee Stapp
8 Elanda Karugo
8 Steve Whisler
9 Wayne Brock
10 Jeff Kaufman
11 Megan Coakley

11 Rob Johnson
11 Adalyn Long
12 Payton Anderson
12 John Dillon
12 Michael Dillon
12 Olivia Marek
12 Nancy Pim
13 Carolyn Bollman
13 Dalton Rich
13 Lael Stout
15 Tyler Alderton
16 Laurie Davison
16 Dorothy Soucek
17 Rita Phipps
18 Dean Batterson

19 Macy Driscoll
19 Jamie Helmick
19 Joyce Wilson
20 Katie Rich
21 Thelma Wagner
23 Elna Tompkins
25 Brad Alderton
25 Jordan Thorius
26 Joyce Crawford
26 Jack Strabala
27 MaKenna Conrad
28 Kim Renoux
28 Eleanor Waring
29 Cathy Wood



**Articles for the May
newsletter are due
Friday, April 20.**



Connect with us on Facebook:
“Washington United Presbyterian Church”
“The CROSSing Washington, Iowa”
“Kingdom Kids Preschool Washington Iowa”