

UPChurch

Love God. Love Others.

June 2018



Welcome to the youth who were recently baptized and confirmed into the Church, the body of Christ!

June Highlights

1st-10th Youth Mission Trip!
3rd Worship Brainstorming Meeting
6th PW Annual Meeting
17th Father's Day

17th-18th PNC in St Louis
18th Sewing Day-Flag Repair
19th Finance
20th Session
21st Book Club



From the Pastor...

What would we do?

On May 9th 32 people were arrested after Immigration Customs and Enforcement officers raided the Midwest Precast Concrete in Mt Pleasant. Later reports identified that 22 were from Guatemala, 7 from Mexico, 2 from El Salvador and 1 from Honduras. ICE officials said these men were not a threat to the public. It seems that while some might have entered the country illegally most just didn't have documentation with them or the appropriate visas to be working.



What would we do?

News reports from that day talked about the family members anxiously standing outside the fence at Midwest Precast waiting for word about their loved ones. These were men who had families, wives and children, and friends.

What would we do?

The folks at First Presbyterian Church in Mt Pleasant already knew what they would do. They had decided several years ago to be a place of sanctuary for immigrant people/families. So they opened their doors immediately that afternoon as a place where family members could gather to reconnect.

In the following days they hosted a community forum with city officials and state representatives. The church joined others in collecting moneys and goods to be used to support those families who no longer had a source of income to pay the rent, the utilities, or put groceries on the table. They worked with others to help families access legal representation and raise the money needed to pay the \$10,000.00 bond for release.

What would we do?

It's not always a simple question to answer. We have laws for a reason and each of us value our safety. Immigration officials and police officers have a job to do that is often difficult.

It's not always a simple question to answer. These are people, just like us, who work hard to provide for their families and seek a safe place for their families to live.

What would we do?

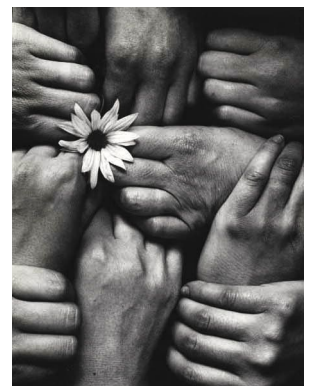
An elder from First Presbyterian Church told me what had been most surprising was that there were churches in town that were silent in the wake of these arrests and this disruption to the community.

What would we do?

Here at UPC we work to be welcoming, loving, nurturing, serving, and generous.

Here at UPC we strive to be a church that is transforming lives by sharing our experience of God's love and acceptance.

Here at UPC we are people being formed by our relationship with the one who says, 'Truly, I tell you, just as you did to the least of these, you did to me.'



What would we do?

It's always a good time to show gratitude! So this month, I want to say thank you to the many people

who have been helping behind the scenes in many ways to make worship happen each week. Without these folks, worship would not be the same. So it seems fitting to say thanks as we close out our spring season and move into summer.

The Chancel Choir has finished their season of anthems. They've gone through a rocky year this year, waiting for the sanctuary project to come to an end. They've been without their rehearsal room for a year now. Still, they have come through with anthems and hymn leadership throughout this spring. Thank you to all who are members of our Chancel Choir for all the time and effort you offer to make worship more meaningful.

THANK
you
SO
MUCH

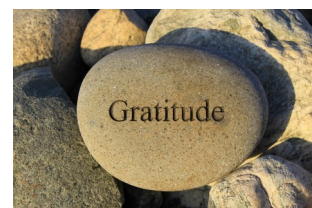
Our worship Band has been faithful throughout the entire year with all the changes going on in the sanctuary. These folks have worked hard to be ready for anything when we came in on Sunday mornings. Because of their busy schedules, they do not rehearse during the week as a band, but instead, they prepare the music independently, then come together and merge everything on Sunday morning before worship. Thank you to everyone in our Worship Band for the hours of preparation, the flexibility beyond belief, and for sharing your gifts and your leadership in worship on Sunday mornings.

Thank you to everyone who helped support these groups with music sorting, filing and distribution each and every week without fail. This takes hours of work, usually in solitude, unseen and unheard. Without these people, none of what we do would be possible. Thank you for your quiet hours of work, attention to detail, and unfailing support.

Thank you to the tech team, who sits behind everyone else in worship doing everything they can to help make worship more meaningful and more relative. These people are always thinking ahead to what those worshipping are going to be needing next, before it happens. This year, their domain and landscape has been completely changed by the sanctuary project. The learning curve has been steep. They've gone through training and learned the new equipment well and were always anxious to learn more. Congratulations to this group of dedicated volunteers for their willingness to face whatever was thrown at them on Sunday morning. Thank you for all you do each and every week.

Thank you to the contractor and the crew of Eyes and Ears who have updated all our sound, projection, and lighting equipment. This group has been a joy to work with, and have remained patient with us, and faithful to their mission through some difficult and frustrating times. Thank you for all the time you spent helping to make our worship environment much, much more workable. Thanks for your sense of humor, your safety in some precarious situations, your attention to great detail, and your willingness to remain flexible in all situations. And thanks for helping us move forward.

Thank you to the staff and congregation for all the support, patience and ability to go with whatever we had on Sunday mornings throughout the sanctuary project. Thanks for your vision, and your willingness to go over and beyond to help make this happen. Thanks for your sacrifice to help bring us into this century. It's not easy to believe in something we have never before experienced. And our congregation certainly stepped up when it was needed. Thank you all.



Have a great summer!

Youth Mission Trip to Rockport Texas

This year we are teaming up with the organization TEAMeffort as we go to Rockport, Texas to help respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey. 21 youth and adults will head out early on Friday June 1 to drive the 1200 miles to Rockport. While on the road we will be staying at Presbyterian churches in Oklahoma City, San Antonio, and then on the return trip in Tulsa. While in Rockport we will be staying in a Baptist church that had extensive damage caused by the hurricane. It is hard to say what all we will find once we get down there, and all the different projects that we will be involved with, but please keep us in your prayers as we do our part to help in the recovery and to do our best to love God and love others.



Below is a list of those that will be participating.

Gabriela Anderson	Lincoln Kleese	Drake Schluetter	Cameron Westphal
Roy Carter	Meredith Raber	Dylan Smith	Hayden Westphal
Peyton Cuddeback	Alec Schiefer	Jack Strabala	Krista Gaal
Sydney Cuddeback	Ben Schiefer	Megan Strabala	Jared Long
Mateo Hernandez	Dawson Schluetter	Kristen Twimam	Jake Thorius
			Tracy Stabala

Summer CREW (Middle School Ministry)

Every summer we plan a series of activities for all of the students who are going into 6th grade through those that have just finished 8th grade. Our theme this year is EMBARK.

Most of the events are scheduled to take place between 8am and 4pm and include both a service project in the morning and a fun activity in the afternoon, with lunch served between the two. There are a couple exceptions to this schedule: for our first event we will spend the day tubing down the Maquoketa River. Since this is farther away we will meet at 7:30am and get back somewhere around 5:30pm. Later in the summer we will also have a fundraising Car Wash that will take place only in the afternoon/early evening.

June 12th Tubing the Maquoketa.

July 13th Looking into UP Home and Lake Darling

July 27th Looking into Huck's Harbor Waterpark in Burlington

Aug 8th Car wash, 3-6pm

Aug 17th Looking into Ronald McDonald House and AirFX/Skyzone

Please contact Jared if you have any questions or if you would like to participate.



Vacation Bible School Roaring River Rampage

VBS this year will take place Sunday July 29th - Thursday August 2nd, from 5:30 - 8:30pm (dinner is provided).

The theme is Roaring River Rampage and promises to be a fun adventure of activities and learning.

Registration is now open. You may come by the office for a registration form, or click the link on our Facebook page, or cut and paste this link into your browser (<https://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/UPChurch/>).

If you would like to volunteer for VBS or have any questions please see Jared (upwashyouth@gmail.com).



The Kingdom Kids

Kingdom Kids has wrapped up another year as we celebrated our accomplishments. Each child has grown and changed, has experienced and explored, has begun to learn skills that will help them thrive. Working together, being a part of a community, understanding that everyone is not great at everything but everyone is good at something, asking friends for help, getting attention appropriately, trying new things, and sharing are all life skills. We have also stretched our math, literacy, language, cognitive, arts, and science skills. A comment from a child as he headed for home today, "I love school, I don't want to stay home." This is the same child that cried and clung to mom for 2 weeks at the beginning of the year.

I love how they have grown! Next year will be here soon. We have lots of openings. Please pray that we find the children and families that God intends for us to serve. Call Brenda for registration information. 319-461-4327



Church Contacts

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

Pastor

Rev. Bill Warhover
upwashpastor@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Jessica Canny
upsecretary@gmail.com

Music & Arts Director

Butch Zwicki
butchzwicki@gmail.com

Director of Youth

Jared Long
upwashyouth@gmail.com

Kingdom Kids Preschool

Brenda Miles
kkpwash@gmail.com

Our brothers and sisters at First Presbyterian church in Mount Pleasant are working with those that have been arrested and their families with the ICE Raid.



The thirty two men arrested were from Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador and Honduras. Many that were arrested were on the pathway to becoming citizens without any criminal record. They had federal IDs and were paying payroll taxes but were treated as felons and now have to wait for their bond hearings. One family who went to pick up their father who had the correct documentation was required to pay \$10,000 for bond until a hearing was setup. Many cannot afford that.

Lawyers are working to help lower their bonds. One child was orphaned because his father was detained and he did not have other family. Only one is facing expedited deportation for a felony record. Most of the others are trying to get asylum for themselves and their families through different channels that are not approved.

The First Presbyterian church in Mount Pleasant is working with all the children and mothers. If you would like to help please give at firstpresbyonline.org. Click the give now button and add "Immigrants" or "IowaWINS" in the note.



the saturday kitchen

taste and see that the Lord is good!

Our latest Saturday Kitchen on May 19th kind of crept up on Joe and me. So rather than having the brownie boxes and sign-up sheets set out the Sunday before, Joe and I had to make phone calls the week of the event. Once again you, church family, showed your Love of God and your Love of Others.

May is such a busy month for so many people, including some of our very committed and "regular" helpers. However, as always, you stepped up in your caring and we had some new people very willingly say "yes" and all ran smoothly once again.

We served nearly eighty meals and then there were the many take-home meals. How blessed we are to be able to serve others in our community and to be the host church each week in this outreach of providing food, fellowship and love to our friends in the Washington area.

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 us at 1221mcconnell@gmail.com.



The Deacons would like to thank the following people who delivered Meals on Wheels for our church's five-week assignment during the months of April and May: Mary Atwood, Amy Bruner, Billie Bruns, Jane Button, Kevin Caldwell, Mindi Rees, Terry Mangold, Kathy Hunt. Your help was very much appreciated.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee continues its work searching for God's guidance in choosing the pastor who will be just the right "fit" for our congregation. We have moved on to the next step in the process- interviewing candidates on Skype. Seeing the pastors "live" has given us more insight into their personalities and their abilities to "think on their feet".

As the committee continues to accept additional PIFs, the COM will check backgrounds on those we have interviewed. We are anxious to reach the stage of inviting candidates to a "neutral pulpit", and also inviting them to tour Washington as a prospective home. In June, several committee members will travel to St. Louis to the biennial General Assembly where we will have the opportunity to meet additional prospective pastors "face-to-face".

In addition to our often weekly meetings, two members are busy between meetings as well. Julie Johnson has taken over as chair of the committee after Ed Raber's departure. Among her many duties she has made contact with candidates to set up the skype interviews, then followed up with thank yous. Emily Burroughs, as recorder has taken excellent notes, sent copies to every committee member promptly so we can peruse them in preparation for the next meeting. She has also taken wonderful notes during the interviews. We thank these two women for their diligent, helpful work.

As last month's column suggested, your PNC will continue Passionately to Navigate this process to which we all have great Commitment. And we ask that you, the congregation, continue to be Patient, while Nourishing our work with your prayers, and Compassionate to the committee and pastors who are searching for their calling.

In His name, Julie Johnson, Jim Cuddeback, Katie Lujan, Krista Gaal, Jordan Youngman, Lynn Loula and Emily Burroughs



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!

Thank you!

Thank you to those who helped and made the Presbytery meeting at our church a success. Your donations of cookies, time and talents are greatly appreciated. Thanks!



Are you or someone you care deeply about in need of prayer? Our church has an **Email Prayer Chain** that reaches 98 different

homes in our church family. To request prayers, the request must be okayed by the individual first and then contact Deacon Mary Atwood with your request (maryjoyatwood@gmail.com).

If you would like to be on this prayer chain, please contact Mary with your email address. Let us continue to strive to be faithful servants as we offer up our prayers to our Loving Lord.



The CROSSing has finished its season as of the end of May, and will not meet during the Summer. Thanks to all who have been faithful in helping make it a very special time of worship each and every week. You are all greatly appreciated.

Thanks to The CROSSing Band for the countless hours of work ahead of time and together in rehearsals to make worship meaningful and accessible to people in our community. Your sense of commitment and love for Christ is amazing! Thank You.



On Sunday **June 3**, from **11:35 - 12:05**, two brainstorming meetings will be held simultaneously regarding the general design of our traditional and contemporary worship scheduled to begin in September. If you're interested in being a part of this general process, please join us.

Our finances are looking good for this time of year, but we still need your help! Please remember to pay any outstanding pledges you may have. Your continued donations and generosity are what make this church work and we are so grateful for all that you've given!

In order to stay on budget, we should be around 33% for income and expenses. Our income has come in at 30.8% and our expenses have come in at 30.5%. Contact the finance team or the office with any questions.



Synod School 2018



A place where you ...

Learn

Laugh

Sing

Dance

Try new things

Leave spiritually and
personally renewed

July 22–27, 2018
Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa

• • • •

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**Dance Joyfully
Where'er You May Be**

CONGRATULATIONS!



We are glad to report that the sanctuary project has been completed!

While all the different components of the project have been installed we are still working to learn and use the new technology. Please be patient with us as we do this.

Other good news about the project is that Jessica, our treasurer, reports to us that the final bill for the project has been paid and that after this final payment we have:

\$11,407.51 still remaining in the fund and \$13,454 of pledges remaining to be paid. In reviewing those pledges there is no indication they will not be honored.

This will allow us to meet the \$24,000 mission pledge that we committed to as a part of the project and leaves us a positive balance of \$861.

Well done! Thanks to you all for your generosity and patience!



Church Family News . . . just so you know!

Have you been wondering who planted the gorgeous geraniums in the flower pots at each entry door of the church? Kathy Knutson deserves all the credit and I know we're all grateful for her hard work. Not only are the flowers a very colorful and welcoming site for each of us but they're also a beautiful and welcoming site for the many visitors entering the church. They're truly a reminder of God's beauty in His creation. Many thanks again, Kathy!

Kevin Caldwell is the man to call when you need some great grilling done. He was the "Master Griller" for the burgers and hot dogs for the church family, 1st Annual (!) Kewash Trail bike ride event. My, those burgers and "dogs" were delicious - many thanks again, Kevin!

While we have seventeen kids and "our" Jared going on the high school mission trip to Texas; we also have three other very busy adults going, too. Those adults are Krista Gaal, Tracy Strabala and Jake Thorius. We're so grateful to each of you for giving your time and energy to serve God and our Inside Out Youth in this way. We're so very thankful for the Christian role models you are for our youth, some who may be the future of "our" local church and who will surely be the future of our world.

Congratulations are in store for the three WHS seniors from our church family who each received college scholarships from us! Those special young people are Meredith Raber, Megan Strabala, and Kristen Twinam. We congratulate each of them and wish them much success in the years to come as we pray that they will continue to let God lead them in their future paths.

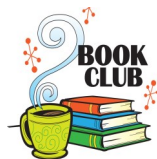
Connect with us on Facebook:

"Washington United Presbyterian Church"

"The CROSSing Washington, Iowa"



"Kingdom Kids Preschool
Washington Iowa"



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



**Presbyterian
Women Monthly Meeting**
will be Wednesday, June 13th
in the UP Home at 9am.



*Donna Lee
Wheelan
April 23rd*



**Articles for the July/August
newsletter are due
Wednesday June 20th.**



Thank you for the kind words,
thoughtful cards, caring prayers and
generous donations to Iowa City
Hospice at the time of my sister's
passing, Nancy McConnell Wright.
Marde and I are so grateful to you, our special
friends and our church family, for remembering us
in so many ways during Nancy's illness and in our
time of loss. Joe and Marde McConnell



Session Update

On Tuesday, May 22 our church was host to the 182nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of East Iowa, which included serving them their evening meal. I wish you could all have seen what a great job the session members and volunteers did. I can't begin to name all of those who helped but I do want to recognize Karen Dillon who spearheaded the effort and Brenda Miles and Carolyn Bollman who did the shopping and were in the kitchen early on for preparation and baking. A big thank you to all the session members and volunteers who helped make the afternoon and evening a wonderful success from set up to clean up. Another big thank you goes out to those volunteers who brought cookies to serve. Those in attendance were full of praise and thanks for the meal, some even coming into the kitchen to express their thanks. All and all it was an amazing example of what this church can accomplish when people work together with God leading the way.

Our session meeting this month will be on May 30 so we don't yet have updates to share. I know we are anxious to hear the reports from the various teams and committees, especially the PNC and worship committee.

Please keep Pastor Bill, Jared, Butch, Ginny, and Jess in your prayers. Special prayers for continued healing for our visitation pastor Herb.

Clerk of Session, Kay Hall



Washington County Relay for Life **Mark your calendars: Saturday, June 23rd** **Hope you can be a part of Team UP and Friends!!**

Ann Conklin and I (Marde McConnell) are here to inform you about the Saturday, June 23rd Washington County Relay for Life event AND to invite you to have fun and be a part of our church's Relay for Life Team, Team UP and Friends. The event will be in Central Park once again, beginning at 12:00 noon and ending at 10:00.

We're a VERY flexible group; you don't even have to walk around the square if you don't want to. You can just come to Central Park, enjoy the activities and visit with everyone at our team site. The plan is to have even more entertainment this year, so come and join us for the fun and to show your support of Relay for Life and Team UP and Friends.

We'd love to have YOU (and your friends) join our team and wear our team's red shirts or the purple survivor shirts. WE'LL BE ORDERING NEW SHIRTS FOR NEW MEMBERS SOON, SO . . . PLEASE CONTACT EITHER ANN, ME or THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF TEAM UP AND FRIENDS - OR IF YOU JUST WANT MORE INFORMATION.

Please join us and help show your support and care for those whose lives have been touched by cancer. There will be more specific information about the event, its schedule and luminaires closer to the event.



Happy Birthday!

1 Ashlynn Long
1 Meredith Raber
2 Fran Langenberg
2 Baylee Stalder
2 Austin Stalder
3 Jean Wells
4 Bonnie Bannister
5 Drew Conrad
5 Garth Rustan
5 Tricia Whisler
6 Joleen Krotz
7 Drake Schluetter
7 Dawsen Schluetter
8 Sydney Cuddeback
9 Kay Hall
10 Kathy Knutson
11 Hattie Miller
12 Jessie Buchholz

12 Kaitlyn Mitchell
12 Alexa Mitchell
13 Lynn Loula
15 Caleb Bex
15 Ron Kaufman
15 Emma Keil
15 Dylann Schluetter
15 Penny Stout
19 June Asper
19 Sophia Lujan
19 Olivia Lujan
20 Nic Willers
20 McKenna Woods
21 Kevin Caldwell
21 Janet Kaufman
22 Al Sents
22 Etta Wakeland
23 Ed Raber

24 Diana Henry
25 Janice Flory
25 Birdie Leavitt
25 Joyce Letts
26 Patricia Bagley
26 Ellie Farmer
27 David Brinning
27 John Prochaska
27 Callie Schiebel
27 Austin Twinam
27 Janice Twinam
28 Phil Perdock
28 Lawrence Whisler
29 Isabel Bailey
29 Rob Robertson
29 JoAnn Torpey
29 Lala Walker



Welcome to Baby Hoyt, Baby Eliana and new daddy, Nolan Burke!

Welcome to dear, Baby Hoyt Burke who was recently baptized and to his daddy, Nolan, who joined our church family through the reaffirmation of his faith.

Nolan grew up in Fairbank, Iowa and enjoys spending his free time outdoors. In 2010 he moved to Washington when he accepted a job as Deputy Sheriff for the county. In 2015, Nolan married his wife Amanda and they welcomed their son, Hoyt, in September of 2017.

A very special welcome also to sweet, baby Eliana, daughter of Sonja and “our” Jared, whose dedication service took place recently, too. We, as a church family, care about you each and promise to love and support you and pray for you, little ones, and your dear parents.

1st Annual (!) Kewash Bike Ride

The CE (Christian Education) sponsored bike ride was a huge success – many thanks to Ericka Davis for her fabulous idea!! There were lots of bikers from little Hoyt in his bike buggy being pulled by his mommy, Amanda, with Grandma and Grandpa there to assist; to Jase and Jordon biking behind and attached to Erin and Jacob’s bikes: and, of course, there were several seniors. Additionally, there were lots of kids and families in between.

A very good time was had by all!

It was great having non-bikers and some visitors join up at the Sunset Park shelter house for the delicious potluck, complete with lots of desserts. The latter which Joe McConnell loved – 3 pieces of pie, right, Joe? Despite a couple of mishaps, I think everyone would agree it was a delightful time and much fun for all. Many thanks again, Ericka, for the great idea!!

