

May 2018

Confirmation Class of 2018!



Gabby Anderson, Kiki Guo Bruner, Roy Carter, Sydney Cuddeback, Sophia Kleese, Alexa Mitchell, Kaitlyn Mitchell, Dawson Schluetter, Drake Schluetter, and Jack Strabala

May Highlights

2nd PW Spring Luncheon
3rd Mobile Food Pantry
6th Washington Against Hunger
6th Crew Party at Sunset Park

9th PW Meeting at UP Home
17th Book Club
19th WE DO SATURDAY KITCHEN!
22nd Presbytery Meeting
30th Session



From the Pastor...

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. Acts 2:1-3

At Pentecost, as the Holy Spirit comes upon those first followers of Jesus, the winds of change blow and the refiner's fire burns away that which is unnecessary leaving only the important. The first followers who thought things would be one way (Jesus would be leading the movement) find themselves leading a religious revolution in ways they would never imagine.

This revolution arms itself with the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This revolution uses compassion, acceptance, and service as its tools of propaganda. This revolution is powered by God's own Spirit and finds its way even to us today.

It is hard to remember in the midst of change in the present (changes in worship), the uncertainty of the future (what will our new pastor be like), and fear of what is or what might be (declining membership) that God has already sent the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter in the midst of the uncertain. That God has already given us the Holy Spirit to give us the spirit of courage in the face of the unknown. That God has already given us the Holy Spirit to lead us into the new life that he calls to us in Jesus. Even as spring has finally come, so too has God's life giving Spirit bringing new life.

Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20:21-22.

Pastor Bill

Out of
Office

Pastor Bill will be away from May 7th through May 13 on Study Leave attending Interim Minister Training and then from May 14 through 20 on vacation. If you have a pastoral emergency please contact Pastor Herb Yoder at 319-591-0907.



Jess will have a new office schedule effective Monday, April 30th. She will be working Monday and Wednesday 8am-4pm and Friday 8am-noon. There will be volunteers in the office Tuesday and Thursday 8am-noon and 1pm-4pm.

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 Zwicky
butchzwicky@gmail.com

Director of Youth

Jared Long
upwashyouth@gmail.com

Kingdom Kids Preschool

Brenda Miles
kkpwash@gmail.com

Sometimes being a Christian is easy. Things fall in to place in our lives, and we praise God for all He's done to make it happen. Then, there's times when things are tough.....sometimes really tough. And we might say, "Sure God is in the good stuff. But what about when things get confusing and difficult? Where is God then?"

For the Israelites, things were pretty tough when they were made slaves of the Egyptians. Things were pretty tough when the Egyptian army had them pinned against the Red Sea. They were all out of options. If they weren't killed, they would be taken back into slavery. The Israelites had no choice but to depend on God. There was nothing else left.

There's a famous saying that says, "When you get to your wit's end, you'll find that God lives there."

We all know from experience that being a Christian doesn't mean everything is good all the time. Just watch the news. Bad things happen all the time. We know that being a Presbyterian, or Baptist, or Methodist, or Lutheran doesn't mean we're not going to mess things up occasionally. Actually, we seem to find a way to mess things up on a somewhat regular basis.

How many times have we gone into Lowes or Menards and need help finding something, and it seems like all the people working the floor have scattered to parts unknown. Nobody is around, nobody can be found. That's kind of what it feels like when bad times visit our lives, isn't it? Sometimes, when we collide with problems, it seems everyone around us wants to scatter or distance themselves from us.

God's love is not like that. His Love is steadfast, not intermittent. His love is deep, not shallow. His love is offered first, not as a response to our love. God's love is always present, it never hides from trouble. God does not love us based upon our performance. There is nothing we can do to cause God to love us any more than He already does. And there is nothing that will cause God to love us any less. God loves us not because of who we are, but because of who He is.

This is so hard for us to understand, since we mostly experience only conditional love that's based on what we do. Perform well on the job, or on the team, or in the relationship and we're loved. Mess up in our performance, and we are immediately ostracized from the team. Mess up in a relationship, and we no longer qualify to be loved.

Understanding that God loves us no matter what, will keep us going when the love of those around us fades or disappears. When our love for ourselves is finally torn and broken down, when the next mile seems intolerably long, when we experience darkness, when we feel pain and loneliness, God's love is always there. His love is steadfast. His love is deep....wide...and great.

God's love is forever.



UP Church Kewash Trail Bike Ride & Picnic (UPCKTBR&P - for short)

On May 20th we are welcoming Spring (I am assuming it will be here by then) with a fun family outdoor event. We are going to have a bike ride on the Kewash Trail from West Chester to Sunset Park in Washington.

We will meet at the park at 3:30pm and have a trailer waiting there to help transport bikes to West Chester.

The bike ride will start in West Chester around 4pm.

At 5pm the picnic in the park will begin.



We are providing the main course, and participants are invited to bring a side dish or dessert. Feel free to meet us at the park, even if you don't want to do the bike ride. We have rented the main pavilion in the park for the whole day, so come as early as you like!

INSIDE OUT

(Senior High Ministry)

May 6: 6:30pm @ UP Church - Ice Cream Night!

May 13: 6:30pm @ UP Church - Senior Night and Mission Trip Training

May 20: 6:30pm @ UP Church - UPCKTBR&P

Senior Sunday



On May 13th, during the 10:30 service, we will recognize our High School Seniors, present scholarships, and hear from some of the youth about their faith experiences here at UP Church. We will also be commissioning the Youth Mission Trip during this service.

CREW

(Middle School Ministry)

May 6: Last regular meeting of CREW before summer (watch for Summer CREW activities!)

May 20: We will join the UPC Kewash Trail Bike Ride & Picnic (UPCKTBR&P)

SON CITY

(Elementary Ministry)

In May, Son City will be finishing up our last couple of weeks looking at the parable of the Prodigal Son. We will be looking at those units on May 6th & 13th, and on May 20th we will be having our end of year party in Sunset Park during the Sunday School hour.

Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity

Did you know you can volunteer, shop, or donate to the Habitat ReStore at 2401 Scott Blvd SE, Iowa City?

The ReStore sells new and used household goods, construction materials, appliances, and even art. The money made helps to build quality affordable homes for people in our area.



Check out the website www.iowavalleyhabitat.org/ and click on the Restore tab. There you can view items for sale, volunteer, even schedule a pick-up if you have items to donate. Volunteers help the staff work on small projects and sometimes will go pick up goods with them around the area.

TAKE AWAY HUNGER DAY

Washington Against Hunger is planning on packing meals for Take Away Hunger and HACAP on Sunday, May 6 at 3pm in the KC Hall. Come join the other churches in Washington for helping others in need!



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). Please send individual prayer requests to Mary. Let us continue to strive to be faithful servants as we offer up prayers of thanksgiving, for hope and peace each day!

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. Give Dale a call at 319-461-7453 and he will make arrangements for you!

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?



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 help. 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.

PNC Pastor Nominating Committee, just one of the acronyms we have grown accustomed to.

PNC, MIF, PIF, UPC, CLC, are just a few that we've used in the last few months on our committee work alone. PNC has brought on a whole new meaning to us as we work together on the pastor nominating committee. After having spent quite a bit of time together I can honestly describe our PNC as:

- (P) – Passionate, the people on the PNC are so passionate about the work they are doing.
- (N) – Navigating, we have been navigating thru the process of calling a new pastor, navigating thru personal information forms, and navigating thru the ups and down of the process.
- (C) – Committed, the committee members are very committed and are working hard and spending a lot of time together to find the very best Pastor for our church!

Over the past month the PNC has been meeting once per week recruiting applicants, reviewing personal information forms of pastors who have shown interest in our position and listening to sermons provided by the applicants. There are several possibilities but we continue to recruit as we work through the process looking for the perfect fit for our congregation. We have also been finishing up on questions we would like to ask on first telephone interviews and perfecting answers to questions the applicants might ask us. You can only imagine finalizing questions and answers with eight different people around the table. There has been a little groveling going on but only to the extent to make our questions and answers perfect.



We will meet again on May 1st to review new applicant's personal information forms, to find new ways of getting the word out about our position and to review questions we want to ask.

Many ask "How can we help?" As we show Passion, as we Navigate, as we show our Commitment, we need you, our congregation, to be on your own sort of PNC. As members of our church we ask you to be:

- (P) – Patient, we are working as quickly as we can yet this process takes time and we want the best possible outcome. We also ask you to...
- (N)– Nourish us with your prayers and with your support to complete our task. And we ask that you...
- (C) – Show Compassion to us, to our church staff, to each other and to those we serve as we move through this season of change.

With your help our PNC journey will end with God blessing us with a Pastor that is a perfect fit for our church.

Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Blessings, Emily Burroughs, Jim Cuddeback, Krista Gaal, Julie Johnson, Lynn Loula, Katie Lujan and Jordan Youngman.

SESSION UPDATE

Before the session meeting on Wednesday, April 18, the session members joined with the confirmands, their mentors and parents to enjoy a meal and fellowship. Also attending were Jared Long, Pastor Bill and Kay Hall. It was interesting to hear about the confirmands journey of faith.

There were several topics of discussion during the regular session meeting. The Worship Committee shared a letter to be sent to the congregation concerning the changes to the worship schedules which will be coming. More information to be coming soon.

Approval was granted to our secretary/treasurer to change her work schedule beginning May 1. Jessica will be scheduled to be in the office all day on Monday and Wednesday and then on Friday morning.

Our church will be hosting a meeting of the Presbytery on Tuesday, May 22 so the next few weeks will be busy making plans and getting ready.

Some different security options for the church were looked at with no decision made but will be requesting Property to explore some more possibilities. At this time the East and North doors are locked at all times (there will be needed exceptions) and the office will be locked when no one is physically there.

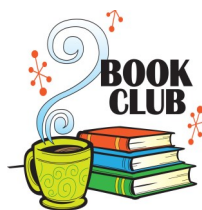
In the sanctuary they are getting close to finishing the lighting- check it out. Hopefully the end of the project is near and the congregation (near and far) can enjoy the results.

The Pastor Nominating Committee is working on the questions they will be asking during interviews in the next few weeks. They have been given a most important task so be sure to keep them in your prayers asking God to guide them in their work.

Clerk of Session, Kay



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



The Feed & Read Book Club will
next meet on Thursday, May 17 at
11:45 am in the Church Library.



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



**Articles for the June
newsletter are due
Tuesday May 22nd.**



Presbytery Meeting to be held at UPC Tuesday, May 22 from 4-8pm

Help is needed in preparing for and hosting the upcoming Presbytery Meeting. We will need folks who can help in the following ways:

- *Parking Lot Attendants who will help with parking especially for the disabled persons.
- *Greeters who will welcome visitors and provide hospitality.
- *Assist in registration.
- *Prepare and serve the meal.
- *Child Care providers.
- *People to set up ahead of the meeting.
- *In other ways as we become aware of those needs.



If you can help. Please contact Karen Dillion or the church office.

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
• • • •

Discover Synod School!
[www.lakesandprairies.org/
SynodSchool](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool)
800-328-1880, ext. 207

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

Sanctuary Project Update

The audio visual portion of the Sanctuary Project has been completed. Butch and volunteers have received training on the new equipment and are working to learn the new technologies and implement them in worship. Butch has been working with Dave Hendrickson to get issues with the live feed of the worship services to those gathering at the UP Home and it is getting better every week now. We will be going 'live' with both live and archived worship services later in May and will let you know how you can connect when it is ready.

The lighting project is coming along nicely now that they are started. As I write this the folks from Eyes and Ears are installing the lighting on the soffits around the church and the pendant lights are being relit. When the lighting is all installed and electrically wired the last step will be to have a programmer from Gopher Lighting come and program the lights. The results will be noticeable.

The project looks to be staying on budget. We have had to delete a few items in the contract as other things came up that were needed to stay within our budget. There has been some additional expenses (just over \$700.00) most of which was to repurchase the hearing assist devices.

Make sure to stop in and take a look around the sanctuary.

If you have questions don't hesitate to ask Butch or Pastor Bill.





Church Family Newsjust so you know!

Our new-ish office assistant, Jessica Canny, does a fabulous job as our church secretary and does so in what appears to be a very unflappable way! In addition to all her many, regular duties she's always willing to look up information as needed, willing to be the communicator for or with Pastor Bill when he's not in Washington, willing to create clever signage or posters, and willing to do a million other things for us. We're so grateful for you, Jessica!!

Our church office runs so smoothly thanks to several volunteers, too. These women fill in when Jess isn't in the office. They answer the phone, greet visitors, help with bulletins, fill the children's activity bags, and other clerical needs that arise. I know Jessica is very grateful for these women and we, as a church family, are too. Many special thanks to Mary Atwood, Deb Helmick, Kay Hall, and Diana Henry.

A special thank you to those serving on our Pastor Nominating Committee. I know we all keep them in our prayers and thank them for their willingness to serve our church family in this very significant way. None of us knows how many hours and hours and evenings and evenings these folks have given thus far . . . and their work is not done! I know we're all so grateful to these individuals who are working so hard on our behalf. We surround our PNC members with our prayers: Emily Burroughs, Jim Cuddeback, Krista Gaal, Julie Johnson, Lynn Loula, Katie Lujan and Jordan Youngman.

In closing, a huge welcome to our church family - our newest members: Gabby Anderson, Kiki Guo Bruner, Roy Carter, Sydney Cuddeback, Sophia Kleese, Alexa Mitchell, Kaitlyn Mitchell, Dawson Schluetter, Drake Schluetter, and Jack Strabala. We thank all those who helped these young people make this significant decision: from their parents, their church mentors, our Youth Director Jared, Pastor Bill and probably many others. We're so pleased to have these new young people join our church and to have them be a part of all the many ways our church family "Loves God and Loves Others." We truly reach out in God's love, not only in reaching out to individuals in Washington but also in helping people in other parts of our country and in the world with our prayers, through our service and in our financial assistance.



The Kingdom Kids

The preschool year is winding down quickly. We celebrated the Week of the Young Child by creating and displaying artwork at the public library and attending a community wide music program given by Linda Soukup and Shelley Lawson at the library. Special thanks to them and Jo Weidner for organizing!! We have finally been seeing signs of spring and on Thursday, celebrated with a spring program for our families. We sang our favorite songs and shared treats while showing off our art from the library.

Kingdom Kids is now taking registrations for Fall. Our half day program is state funded for children who turn 4 by Sept 15, and \$100 per month for 3 and 5 year olds. We meet from 8:15 to 11:15 Monday - Thursday during the school year. Please help inform families that might have a child this age, especially those moving to town. Also keep praying for our program, staff, children, and families.





*Happy
Birthday!!*



April 23
Donna Wheelan

2 Kayla Andrew	16 Elyse Hunt
2 Allison Hippen	19 Morgan Meyer
4 Brianna Banks	24 Teague Mayer
4 Mary Lou Saforek	25 Ezra Graber
4 Dave Schluetter	25 Harvey Holden
5 George Grove	25 Paulette Twinam
6 Cathy Kleese	26 Kasen Bailey
6 Colin Rich	26 Otis Cleverly
8 Emery Walton	26 Dana Conklin
10 Dayton Schluetter	26 Erik Murphy
11 Matt Schiebel	27 Regan Loula
13 Jane Cuddeback	27 Sikke Temple
13 Marjorie Fullerton	27 Allie Wulf
13 Bill Pim	28 Dorothy Pforts
14 Willow Kane	29 TJ Durst
14 Sonny Phipps	29 Jane Fehr
14 Dale Spencer	29 Tork Whisler
15 Andy McCall	30 Ariel Kaufman
16 Walt Gowan	

PW SPRING LUNCHEON! **Wednesday, May 2nd at 11:45am**

Join us for our annual Spring Luncheon!
Rick Fulton will be our guest speaker and
will inform us about his exciting ministry:
Mission Mobility.

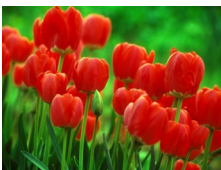
RSVP to the church office before May 1st by
email (upsecretary@gmail.com) or phone
(319-653-6588)



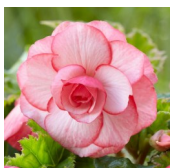
THANK YOU, CHURCH FAMILY, FOR YOUR CARING!



Thank you to each of you in our church family who donated money for the purchase of the twenty, flowering plants which were displayed in our sanctuary for the Easter service. The front of the wooden cross was adorned with many white lilies and some red tulips and pink begonias. They reminded us of Christ's purity and the blood he shed for us – it was beautiful!



All flowers were then distributed to church family members who were unable to join us on Easter morning. Some received a plant in their home and others received their plant at either the U.P. Home, Halcyon House or Columbus Junction Colonial Manor. With each flowering plant there was a card which stated that the plant was used during our Easter worship service and was being given to them from their church family.



In closing, our very grateful thank you to those who donated money for the purchase of the twenty, lovely, flowering plants. Thank you, also, to the ten people who delivered the plants, bringing beauty and joy to others of our church family.

From the Deacons and Flower Committee