

UPChurch

Love God. Love Others.

October 2018



Wake Up
Your
Sunday Mornings

United Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 Traditions *(Traditional worship)*

10:45 Celebration *(Contemporary worship)*

October Highlights

3rd UPlift Ladies Group!

7th Peace Offering

10th PW at UP Home

13th WE DO SAT KITCHEN!

15th Sewing Day

15th Mission

16th Finance

17th Session

29th Deacons



From the Pastor...

... the journey continues ...

“Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing ...” ~ Genesis 12:1-2

Life is a journey. As Christians, we believe that journey started with the creation of the world. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve walked and talked with God. Sin caused their journey to head in a direction neither they nor God had intended. Nevertheless, the journey continues. That’s the thing about journeys. They almost never turn out the way one expects. Sometimes we take a wrong turn and arrive someplace totally unplanned but wonderful. Sometimes we have car trouble but because of it we meet someone we never expected to meet but are glad we did. Sometimes the road is full of potholes, while at other times it’s smooth sailing for miles and miles. Sometimes we find ourselves in need of assistance and, to our great surprise, help arrives in a timely manner. Sometimes the weather turns bad and we have to stay put for a while. The list goes on and on. Church life is no different. It’s a journey. The Church started its journey when Jesus came to earth and continues to head towards its destination ... the completion of God’s kingdom.

Along the way, in every generation, things happened to God’s people. Sometimes those things brought God’s people joy while at other times it sent God’s people into despair. Sometimes it took God’s people to a mountain high and at other times it sent God’s people to a valley low. Sometimes they set challenges before God’s people while at other times they provided happy surprises, etc. Whatever good or bad thing came along, the important thing was God’s people never quit ... never turned back ... because the future of God’s people is not behind us but before us. To get there we must always keep moving forward.

Once upon a time, God called Moses to lead a people he didn’t know, on a road he had never traveled, to a place he had never been. Along the way the people began to feel uncomfortable ... scared. At one point their fear was so great Moses thought they were going to stone him. But every time the fear of the people got the best of them, God showed them they were not alone on their journey ... that He was with them. And, in God’s time, the people arrived at the border to the Promised Land.

As God was with the people of Israel as they followed a leader they didn’t know, on a road they had never traveled, to a place they had never been, so God is with the people of United Presbyterian Church. The road is not and will not be an easy one. There have been and will be times when we feel uncomfortable ... scared. But if we, like the people of Israel, walk in faith and obedience to God ... if we give of our time, talent, and money to do God’s Will and God’s Work to make disciples ... if we reach out in love to those we don’t like as well as those we like, blessing others as God blesses us ... then, in time, we too will arrive at the border of what will be United Presbyterian Church’s Promised Land.

In her book, “What I Know for Sure,” Oprah Winfrey wrote something like this: “If you’re not changing, you’re not growing and if you’re not growing then what are you here for? What’s your purpose?” Are you participating in what Pastor Rick Warren calls, “The Purpose-Driven Life” or have you settled into life in a velvet-lined coffin? Something to think about isn’t it?

God calls His people out of the past, into the present, and on to the future. We are not meant to be who we have been or to remain who we are. We are meant to be who we can and will become with God’s help. The future of United Presbyterian Church rests with those whom God has called as members of His Church. The question is not, “Is God calling you to serve ... to help grow His kingdom?”

The question is, “How are you responding to God’s call?” *The journey continues ...*



From the Worship Committee...

You've heard it before! It's still true. It's our goal to have everyone serving others on Sunday mornings. If you have not yet signed up to serve on Sunday mornings, please visit the sign-up table in Fellowship Hall this Sunday and add your name to the growing list. There's a lot of ways to help. They're all easy and quickly accomplished. If you have questions, visit with any one in our Worship Committee.

Recently, I've been reading articles about serving in the local church. There are general themes that go through each article I've read. So, I've compiled some of these themes and reasons why it's a great idea to serve on Sunday mornings.

Serving others on Sunday mornings can change someone's life

Making the strategic decision to serve others means our efforts could result in someone's experience being better on Sunday morning, and possibly their life being changed for eternity.

Serving others on Sunday mornings can give me better perspective

Serving others allows us to focus on the needs of others rather than always focusing on ourselves.

Serving others on Sunday mornings can introduce us to new lifelong friends

We can make literally hundreds of personal connections and lifelong relationships because of serving on Sunday mornings.

Serving others on Sunday mornings can help others learn about our church

Serving others offers a warm, personal level of hospitality, and can help newcomers learn more about our church in a more natural, non-threatening way.

Serving others on Sunday mornings can make us more generous

It's a sequential process and a natural outflow that begins by serving others and continues as we offer our treasures back to God in worship.

Serving others on Sunday mornings shows them how much we care about them

The Sunday morning experience is crucial to whether visitors will return to our church for a second, third and fourth time. Serving on Sunday morning shows how important our visitors' Sunday morning experience is to us, and how much we value their being an ongoing partner in the life of this congregation.

Sign up this Sunday in Fellowship Hall.



The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will be having a blood drive at the church on Thursday, October 11th, from 1:30—6:30 pm.



Connect with us on Facebook:

"Washington United Presbyterian Church" "Kingdom Kids Preschool Washington Iowa"

Corn Maze @ Bloomsbury Farms w/ CREW

Bloomsbury Farm is Eastern Iowa's premier Agritourism destination (this according to their website), and since we wanted to take part in some Agritourism we figured this is where we ought to go. On Sunday October 21st CREW will head up to Atkins to enjoy the 10 Acre Corn Maze. We will meet here at the church at 2pm and plan on being back somewhere between 5 and 5:30pm. Come and get lost in the corn w/ us (it's not everyday I get to say that).

Inside Out Fall Retreat

I had considered moving the Fall Retreat to another time of year, but then I realized it wouldn't be a Fall Retreat, so it stays. Retreats are a great opportunity to get away and to get out of our typical routine, gather with some friends, have some fun, and relax. We will meet at UPChurch in the afternoon on Saturday October 27th and head out to our retreat. It is our plan to be back at UPChurch around noon Sunday.

Son City (Elementary School Ministry)

Oct 7th: 9:30am - God Can Change Your Direction: Lesson @ Batting Cage
 Oct 14th: 9:30am - God Can Change Your Direction: Lesson @ UPChurch
 Oct 21st: 9:30am - God Can Make You Clean: Lesson @ Laundromat
 Oct 28th: 9:30am - God Can Make You Clean: Lesson @ UPChurch



Inside Out (Senior High Ministry)

Oct 7th: 6:30pm @ UP Church
 Oct 14th: 6:30pm @ UP Church
 Oct 21st: 6:30pm @ UP Church
 Oct 27-28th: Fall Retreat @ New London

CREW (Middle School Ministry)

Oct 7th: 3:30pm @ UP Church
 Oct 21st: 2:00 - 5:30pm - Corn Maze @ Bloomsbury Farms



The Kingdom Kids

The Kingdom Kids have had a great start to the year. With 10 children and three adults in the room, there is lots of interaction. We have been learning the rules and learning how to be part of a classroom community. We have talked about how we are the same and how we are different, and how we all belong to a family but that family make up looks different. We will soon be learning about pets, fire safety, and fall.

We would like to thank Marde McConnell and Sandy Dunlap for the mini renovation of our bathroom. It needed a sprucing up, and now looks great!!

We are still accepting new students, so keep your eyes and ears open for families with 4 year olds. Please continue to pray for these children, families, and our staff. Check out our paintings in fellowship hall, and our facebook page for a peek into the life of a preschooler. I am certainly blessed to be by these little curious minds!!





IowaWINS (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors) was established in the fall of 2015 in response to the global refugee crisis through the Presbyterian church in Mount Pleasant. It was originally setup to assist Syrian refugees but those numbers have decreased. Their message was from the book of Esther in the Bible that says, “And who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this”.

On May 9, 2018 with the ICE raids at the precast plant in Mount Pleasant they had a large need. As of today 24 men have been reunited with their families because of the work of this organization but none of these men that have been released are allowed to work. They have no way of providing for their families for food, rent, utilities, etc. except through IowaWINS. They have court dates in 2019 which may allow them to work again but they have to pay a \$500 application fee with an attorney fee of \$750 for each. One father was deported but his 15 year old son was left with no family here. He was being used as a “drug mule” and would be killed if he went back.

You can donate to this cause through the website <http://www.firstpresbyonline.org> and click the GIVE NOW button or send a check to First Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant.

What Do Your Board of Deacons Do Every Month?



I remember I used to think “What in the world do deacons do every month?” Well, our Board of Deacons are so busy striving to carry out our ordination vows of sharing God’s love with all of His children, that presently we are requesting to add 3 more folks to our Board. We feel if we had 9 active deacons on our board, instead of the current 6, that we could share more fully the love of our Lord.

The one thing that most folks probably know about the deacons is that we call on people. Yes, monthly, we do visit around 25 folks who find it difficult to get out, so we take the love of our church family to them, but monthly other things are also automatically happening. Did you know that a total of 71 prayer requests have been made this year and sent out to those who participate in our email prayer chain? Did you know that 70 notes of love and caring have been sent out to folks wishing them well, and that 19 of those have been sent to folks in our congregation who had 90+ birthdays? Did you know that each month “Extending the Table” (communion) is served at the two retirement homes? Did you know that if you need a ride to church, we can make that happen for you? All of those things happen every month and are coordinated by the deacons. Throughout the year, we also create “Reach Out & Touch” posters, organize the delivery of the Easter flowers, organize volunteers to help with Camp Reece, and organize folks to deliver Meals on Wheels for 12 weeks each year. Now, that Meals on Wheels thing reminds me, that coming up later in the fall, it will be our turn to deliver those hot meals again! Kathy Hunt is always in need of delivery folks!

So, hopefully this article may help you be aware of what your deacons actually do each month! We are so appreciative and thankful for our wonderful volunteers that assist us with each of our ministries. More helping hands are always welcome and that would give you an opportunity to be a blessing to someone else!



During the past few weeks, the committee continued to study Pastor Information Forms. On September 10 we conducted an interview by FaceTime. We were impressed by the candidate and are now talking about when we can meet this pastor in person. This, so far, the closest we have come to finding our new pastor! Since that interview, we have received another 4 PIFs. It does not appear that we will pursue any of these candidates. We hope to continue to receive and study new possibilities. Please continue to pray for our careful consideration of all pastor candidates as we work to find the person God has in mind for us.



the saturday kitchen

taste and see that the Lord is good!

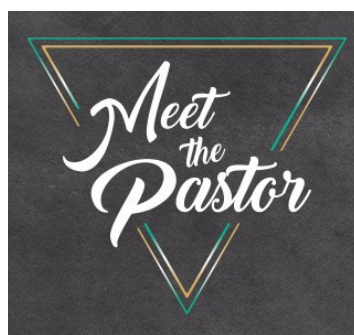
Saturday Kitchen – GREAT News!

In preparation for creating the 2019 schedule, we've been in the process of contacting all the 2018 Saturday Kitchen hosts. We have received nearly all positive responses in wanting to host again in 2019!! We may even have a new group willing "to take" a Saturday – yea! God has TRULY blessed us with the opportunity to share our church facility for this free, weekly, community outreach of food and fellowship.

By the way, if you know of a group which might be interested in being a host, even one Saturday, please let Joe or me.

In closing, thank you to everyone who helped with "our" Sept. 8th, Saturday Kitchen hosting date. It was a fun time for all – our guests as well as all of our church family volunteers. As usual, some guests came as early as 9:30 – this time they even played some cards/games! How great is that?!

If you're interested in learning more about the Saturday Kitchen or in volunteering to help, please contact Jess at the church office (653-6588) or Joe or Marde McConnell (653-3884).



Pastor Karen would like to hold group "meet and greets" (4-6 people at a time) to give the congregation an opportunity to meet her and for her to meet all of you!

There will be sign up sheets if you'd like to participate and they will start taking place around the beginning of October.

Contact the office with any questions!



Church Family News . . . just so you know!

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO “OUR” TRAVIS MOORE for recently receiving his Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from William Penn University. He’s to be commended for working hard on his studies while also working hard at his full-time nursing position at Mercy Hospital. “New” wife Krystle is to be recognized for all her support of Travis, too – a team effort!

MANY THANKS TO JANE CUDDEBACK! Jane created the two, fabulous, welcome posters for Pastor Karen. On short notice Jane created the big poster which was signed by “us” the Sunday before Karen’s arrival. It was placed on her office door at the church. The second, smaller, very attractive poster was placed on Karen’s apartment door, welcoming her “Home.” We appreciate your creativity and you, Jane.

DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

**Articles for the November
newsletter are due
Monday, October 22nd.**

Team UP and Friends Update

Can you believe Relay for Life has their 2019 theme and their Relay date already?!! The theme is “Give Cancer the Boot” and the 2019 date is June 22. Please mark your calendars and come on out and join Team UP and Friends as we support and celebrate our cancer survivors and we work together to “give cancer the boot.”



For more information on Team UP and Friends, just contact Ann Conklin (653-1898) or Marde McConnell (653-3884).

Thank you!

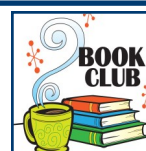
My family would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and thanks to our church “family” here at the UP Church. This last month has been a difficult one and we have greatly appreciated the various forms of help, prayers, gifts, etc given to us. Words cannot express how much you all to mean to us! Many thanks, Jess and Cory Canny



Welcome, Pastor Karen!!

We thank so many from our church family who made it possible for Pastor Karen to come to us all the way from California - now her new home is a downtown apartment in Washington! We welcome her and are excited to get to know her better and to have her get to know us! God has blessed us with her presence.

Those who helped make Karen’s move possible and who worked hard to prepare for her stay are: Diana Rich, our U. P. Friends, Tim Trotman, Leland and Mary Saforek, Steve Liebe, Nick Evanovich, Andy McCall, Marj Lins, Randy Fehr, Joe and Marde McConnell, Travis Moore, Kevin Caldwell and Jane Cuddeback. Thank you to the Session sub-committee, the furniture locators and donors and movers, and those who helped to add the extra special, welcoming touches to Pastor Karen’s new home here with us.



The Feed & Read Book Club has decided to stop their monthly meetings.

Happy Birthday!

1 Synthia Palmer
1 Layne Twinam
2 Donna Orris
3 Noah Bruns
4 Heidi Johnson
6 Marie See
8 Alicia Greiner
8 Halle Leyden
9 Betty Colby
9 Cameron Westphal
10 Tyler Jaspering
10 Jace Johnson
11 April Cuddeback

11 Harriett Rustan
11 Kathy Witthoft
12 Quinn Buckingham
13 Layla Hesser
13 Hannah Rodgers
14 Travis Moore
14 Mindi Rees
15 Mike Orris
16 Madelyn Janecek
16 Tracy Kleese
16 Brendan Loula
17 Christy Buchholz
18 Charley Eaton

18 Victor Miller
18 Wilma Wright
19 Donald Gorham
20 Nolan Burke
21 Jackson Rodgers
22 James Wertz
23 Rollin Davison
23 Dexter Rich
24 Terry Mangold
25 Carmen Woods
27 Barbara Schreur
27 Ava Walker
28 David Draheim



Look for Part 2 of "Pipe Down" in the November Newsletter!



Be sure to stop in and check out the wonderful new carpet in the library!! Marshall's Flooring did a fantastic job! Also, be sure to include a prayer of thanks for the gracious donors who made this possible!



Did you know?? We can email you the newsletter or you can access it on our website!!

Currently we have over 75 households on our newsletter *paper mailing list*! We want to hear from **all of you** that receive a paper copy of the newsletter!

If you still want a paper copy mailed to you or dropped off, please send us a note or give us a call. You may email Jess at upsecretary@gmail.com or call the office at 653-6588. **PLEASE LET US KNOW!**



Mary Whisler
Holden Aug 19th

Dauida Nicholson
Aug 26th

Marjorie Fullerton
Sept 16th



Presbyterian Women Monthly Meeting will be Wednesday, October 10th in the UP Home at 9am.