



December 2018

## Changes To December Worship Schedule

*Please Join Us....*

**Sunday, December 16th - Youth Program at 10:30 am**

**Come early at 9:30 am for Brunch**

**ONE SERVICE ONLY THIS SUNDAY**

**Sunday, December 30th - Hymn Sing at 9:30 am**

**Children's Sunday School watching a movie together at 9:30 am**

**ONE SERVICE ONLY THIS SUNDAY**

**Monday, December 24th Christmas Eve**

**7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**

### December Highlights

**2nd, 9th, 16th** - New Member Classes

**5th** - PW Christmas Tea

**6th** - Fort Nightly Adventures

**6th** - Mobile Food Pantry

**7th** - Family Movie Night

**13th** - Blood Drive

**16th** - Children's Christmas Program/Brunch

**18th** - Finance

**19th** - Session

**22nd** - We do Sat Kitchen!

**24th** - Christmas Eve Service

**25th** - Offices Closed-Merry Christmas!

**30th** - Hymn Sing



# The journey continues....a message from Pastor K

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven . . .” ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1

Seasons. According to the wisest man of the Bible . . . Solomon . . . “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

Centuries have since passed since he spoke those words, yet they are just as applicable to we who live in this time and place as they were when Solomon first spoke them. “A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot . . .” The lives of human beings are ever in flux . . . ever changing . . . ever moving from good to bad and back again. We may not like change, but we can’t stop it either. People, circumstances, living things, solid matter . . . no matter how hard we try to keep things the same, things change.

This church is not the same church it was 50 years or so ago when the two Presbyterian churches in town came together as one. It is not the same church it was under the watchful eyes of its former installed pastors. It is not the same church it was when Pastor Bill Warhover was called to be the interim pastor of the church. Nor is it the same church it was when I walked through its doors just 2 months ago.

Over the years, the church has passed through many seasons. Seasons of growing in membership, programs, new ideas, mission projects, etc. . . . and seasons of declining membership, shrinking programs, a lack of new ideas, a decline in giving. Seasons of unity . . . and seasons of division. Members have left or died, and others have joined the church or been born and baptized into it. Yet despite everything that has happened, the church is still here . . . a little worse for the wear perhaps but even now, once again, beginning to come back together, to grow and to learn, to try new things, to reach out to those in need, to make disciples . . . to be the church God calls this church to be. As we look back on this past year, we can see the many good things that have transpired, preparing the church for a great new year in 2019. For example . . .

- A new pastor is on the horizon.
- There are 7 people participating in the membership class.
- The building project is complete.
- As part of Stewardship season, we got to hear wonderful stories of how the church has made a difference in the lives of 4 of its members.
- Committees are up and running.
- Two new worship services are in place.
- All of the Elder, Deacon, and Nominating Team positions are filled.

While this, I think, has been the shortest Call ever it has been my privilege to help this church move from marching in place to getting up and moving again. More than one member has said to me during my brief time here, “Pastor K, it’s been a long time since I had hope but now I have hope again.”

To me, hope represents a clear movement of the Holy Spirit. It can happen through worship, through music, through prayer, through a good Message, etc. It can also happen when a hurting heart is healed by a listening ear or when one person reaches out in love to another and says, “I miss you.” I’ve heard those words more than once (and from more than one person) in the past few weeks . . . members missing other members . . . reaching out in love to help heal hurting hearts . . . encouraging forgiveness from wounded spirits. Love God / Love Others is not just the mission of this church, it is the core of who this church is in this time and place.

As with all seasons, my season with United Presbyterian Church is drawing to a close, and even though I come in order that I might go, such times are bittersweet. I rejoice that the church is once again ready to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commands in His Word.” At the same time, I am a little sad to leave yet another church I have grown to love.

You, the church, have weathered this latest season of storms well. Now go forth and “Transform lives by sharing your experience of God’s love and acceptance.” . . . This journey ends . . . another begins . . .



Please bring your new or slightly used mittens/scarves/hats to put on our tree this year. We divide the mittens up at the end of the year and deliver them to Head Start, Stewart School and Lincoln School to be distributed to those who do not have any protection from the weather. Last year we gave 48 hats, gloves and scarves to them.

There is still time for you or your group/family to adopt a low income family to provide gifts to this holiday season. If you are interested in the **HACAP adopt a family program** this year please contact Jordan Youngman for more details by December 4th. Feel free to email him at [youngmanj72@gmail.com](mailto:youngmanj72@gmail.com).



## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS - the Star Tree

**Something new, Something special, Something thoughtful**

The Mission Committee is offering an opportunity for you to purchase a special star ornament in honor, or in memory of, a family member, a special neighbor or that teacher / service worker you want to recognize as a “STAR” in your life!

The branches of our Star Tree will be filled with star ornaments created from special paper by citizens of Bangladesh. These stars can be purchased for a \$10 (or more) donation. Three dollars will be sent to 10,000 Villages to aid in their support of the artisans and the rest of the donation will be gathered to send to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, aiding the effort to fill in the gap for those who have lost so much in recent weather catastrophes in the east and the fires in the west. Perhaps our gifts can help others to celebrate the gift of the birth of Jesus Christ in this glorious Christmas season and in the months ahead.

Check out our tree available Sunday mornings through December 23rd. Stop by, pick a star(s) and support those who are most in need this holiday season!





## **CREW: Scavenger Hunt & HACAP Adopt-A-Family**

On Dec 2nd CREW will be meeting early (1pm) so that we can head up to the Coral Ridge Mall to participate in a Scavenger Hunt and to buy gifts for the families that we are adopting for Christmas through HACAP.

## **Inside Out: Christmas Dinner**

On December 16 the Senior High Youth will be heading out to celebrate our annual Christmas Party. We will meet at 5pm with the plan of being back by 9pm. We are in the process of securing a reservation at a restaurant willing to host such a fine group of young people. Each student is asked to bring a gift with a value of no more than \$5, or to recycle a gift from home for our white elephant gift exchange. Contact Jared if you have any questions.

## **Christmas Program**

The Christmas Program this year will be on Sunday, December 16th @ 10:30am (there will just be the one service). Preceding the Program will be a Brunch, which will begin at 9:30am. Children kindergarten through high school will take part in the program. We are asking the students to be here at 9am so that we can practice before the service. We will be preparing for the service during the Sunday School hour on Dec. 2 & 9 as well as the 16th. Attendance those Sundays will be very helpful for our young actors.

### **Son City (Elementary Ministry)**

**Dec 2nd: 9:30am** - Christmas Program  
Practice

**Dec 9th: 9:30am** - Christmas Program  
Practice

**Dec 16th: 9am** - Christmas Program  
Dress Rehearsal

**10:30am** - Christmas Program

**Dec 23rd: 9:30am** - Baking Christmas Cookies!

**Dec 30th: 9:30am** - Christmas Movie

### **CREW (Middle School Ministry)**

**Dec 2nd: 1pm** - Scavenger Hunt @ Coral Ridge Mall

**Dec 16th: 3:30pm** - Christmas Party @ UPChurch

### **Inside Out (Senior High Ministry)**

**Dec 2nd: 6:30pm** @ UP Church

**Dec 9th: 6:30pm** @ UP Church

**Dec 16th: 5pm** - Christmas Dinner

**Dec 23rd: Not Meeting** - Merry Christmas

**Dec 30th: Not Meeting** - Happy New Year!

## **From the Session**

There are so many people to be thanked I won't try to list them all. On behalf of the Session, I do want to extend a special thank you to the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (for bringing Pastor Erin Kaye as candidate for Called Pastor) and the Nominating Committee (who presented the names of the nominees for new elders, deacons and nominating committee for 2019 during the special congregational meeting on Sunday). It is a joy to see so many people stepping up to help during this time of transition as well as gearing up for

Advent, decorating the church and so much more. We encourage everyone to find a ministry (or two or more) in which they would like to participate. You will read in this newsletter the work of different groups and maybe one would spark your interest. There is a new spirit of excitement in the church. Do you see it? Do you feel it? We invite you to be a part of it. We have much to be thankful for both individually and as a congregation. Praise God!! Give thanks to the Lord!!

*In Christ,  
Kay Hall*



## The Kingdom Kids

November as well as our school year have been flying by. We have just finished our Thanksgiving theme by enjoying a feast with our friends and many special guests that we were thankful for. We sang, danced, prepared and shared a meal. The menu included homemade noodles in veggie soup, rolls with homemade butter, apples, cheese and crackers, pumpkin bars, and milk. We realized it is a lot of work to throw a party, but when we work together it is fun. Now we look to December with gingerbread houses, holiday celebrations, and colder weather with snow!! My challenge this month is to help parents realize that the TIME spent with children is so much more important than all the STUFF that they purchase. Please continue to pray for these families as we approach the Christmas season, that they may realize and embrace the true meaning in Christ's birth.

## DEACONS REPORT



**“Mental Health & the Faith Community”** was a workshop, sponsored by our own Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and hosted by our church on November 9. We had six local church members attend this educational workshop on a current topic that certainly needs our attention!! Thanks to Karen Trotman, Kitch Shatzer, and the deacons for helping to coordinate this event. A big thank you goes out to Karen Trotman and Jane Cuddeback who prepared and served a delicious hot lunch to our 27 guests. Now, how does our church help educate others? Please share your ideas and thoughts with any of us.

### Have you been the recipient of a Note of Love and Caring from the Board of Deacons?

Joyce Wilson, a deacon volunteer, is the individual in charge of the Deacon Card Ministry. So far this year, Joyce has sent out: 23 ninety+ birthday cards, 20 sympathy cards, 29 get well cards, 11 thinking of you cards, and 4 congratulations cards to individuals in our church family. This is a total of 87 notes of love and caring that have been sent so far in 2018. What do you think the odds are that she will break our 2017 record of 96 cards sent?



Our **Meals on Wheels** responsibilities have gone well this past month. We have averaged 8 deliveries per day. The Deacons are pleased to have volunteers (Kevin Caldwell, Terry Mangold, Kathy Hunt, & Mindi Rees) help deliver these hot meals to folks in their private homes. We are on the schedule to deliver meals again in the spring, so if anyone would like to help with this mission, just contact Deacon Kathy Hunt 653-6379.



## Stewardship Committee Thanks YOU!

Thank you for your support of our church in so many ways in 2018 and thank you for your enthusiasm about our church's mission in 2019.

The past four weeks we have taken four steps:

**Step One – Transition as an Opportunity**

**Step Two – Embrace Our Church's Vision**

**Step Three – Providing Your Talent and Time**

**Step Four – We Need Your Financial Support**

It is time to say a very special THANK YOU to Karen Dillon, Shelly Saforek Kubik, Erik Buchholz and Heather Anderson for sharing their personal testimonies about what our church family has meant to them.

It is time to say THANK YOU to each of you who have already turned in your pledge card and shown your support for 2019.

It is time to say THANK YOU to my committee of Sandy Dunlap, Kathy Hunt, Cindy McCall, Mary Lou Saforek and Anne Youngman for all their hard work and for sharing their time and their creativity.

In closing it's time to say THANK YOU to YOU, our church family. Each one of you has willingly given in so many different ways in support of our church's mission: Transforming Lives by Sharing Our Experience of God's Love and Acceptance. Thank you from Joe McConnell



**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](mailto:upsecretary@gmail.com) or call the office at 653-6588.**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW!**





## News from the Worship Committee

We have set the dates for Communion for all of next year. The Traditions service will have communion monthly and you can see that the Celebration service is only having communion quarterly. The reasoning behind this is that the Celebration service is designed for people who haven't attended worship at UPChurch or possibly any church. The hope is to create an avenue for a different kind of worshipper, one who's looking for a way to engage with others and with God through a different style of worship. We've set out to offer these people a place in our church family. Our hope is that our current members find it engaging and want to attend regularly too. Everyone is Welcome! We will continue to offer communion every month at the Traditions service, so join us there if you would like communion more often, and see some faces you don't get to see every Sunday.

### **Traditions Service (Monthly):**

January 6th  
February 3rd  
March 3rd  
April 21st - Easter  
May 12th  
June 9th - Pentecost  
July 7th  
August 25th - At Lake Darling  
October 6th - World Communion Sunday  
November 3rd  
December 1st

### **Celebration Service (Quarterly):**

January 6th  
April 21st - Easter  
July 7th  
October 6th - World Communion Sunday

### **Other Services:**

April 18th - Maundy Thursday  
December 24th - Christmas Eve

**The Worship Committee would also like to THANK YOU for all your patience as we're working through this time of Transition. We are all very excited to see what the new year will bring!**



### **Connect with us on Facebook:**

"Washington United Presbyterian Church"  
"Kingdom Kids Preschool, Washington, IA"



### **Presbyterian Women Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, December 12th  
9 am at the UP Home

**Jared's on vacation Dec 24-31**  
**Office Closed Tues Dec 25th**

**DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 am**  
**Christmas Program Presented by the Youth**

**UPYouth**  
*Love God. Love Others.*

**YOUTH**  
**SUNDAY**

**Come Early at 9:30 am for breakfast hosted by the Mission Committee. There will be a free-will donation at breakfast, proceeds going to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.**



## Welcome/Hospitality Team News

As part of the Worship Committee the Welcome Team and Hospitality Team are now together (Welcome/Hospitality Team) and . . . we'd love to have YOU! Our goal is to make all who enter our church doors feel welcome. We do so greeting one another with a smile and by seeing that we have greeters, nursery workers, and fellowship hall/refreshment servers. We also plan to host a couple of special, church events in 2019.

We also reach out to visitors with our welcome bags and we try to follow up with them to answer any questions, whether attending the Traditions service or Celebrations service.

We also are so excited to have helped to welcome the two newest, little ones to our church family, Corley Mary Rich, daughter of Jamie and Tsalika Rich, and Katelyn Grace, daughter of Travis and Krystle Moore. We provided some meals and shared our church "reach out and touch" poster and a rose with each family. We're blessed to have these beautiful little blessings now part of our church family.



Our church has received a \$500 grant from the United Methodist Church Memorial Fund for the Saturday Kitchen. This grant is to help with expenses that our church incurs for being the host location for this community outreach program. We're grateful for this support from our friends at the Methodist Church.

The Lions Club used eyeglass box is now located on the table in the Library. Please put your used glasses in that box so they can be recycled and can help someone else in need.

Thank you to **Julie Zahs** for creating the very informative and creative display of photos of our Son City kids. This display will be on the Welcome/Information table in Fellowship Hall for several Sundays. This photo display shows "our kids" having fun and learning about God's love in various locations and doing various activities. Thank you, Julie, and to all those who help with Son City.

*Thank you!* **United Presbyterian Church Friends, from A.A.U.W.**

Many, many thanks once again in 2018 from the members of the American Association of University Women. On Tues., Nov. 13th our group hosted our annual W.H.S. National Honor Society reception for students and their parents and we also presented our Education Award that evening, too.

We're so grateful that you'll share your lovely facility and your beautiful Fellowship Hall with us for our special 2018 event, attended by over 150 people. A huge thank-you once again from the members of the Washington Branch of A.A.U.W.



# Team U.P. & Friends Says “Thank You!”



As team captains for our church Washington County Relay for Life team, Team U.P. and Friends, we thank each of you who joined us at Unc and Neph's on Tuesday, November 20th for our first fundraiser for the 2019 Relay for Life. Together we're fighting cancer and supporting those whose lives are being affected by cancer!

For more information about Team U.P. and Friends contact team captains: Ann Conklin (653-1898) or Marde McConnell (653-3884).

Mark your calendars for the Washington County 2019 Relay for Life event: June 22, 2019 – Give Cancer the Boot!

## the saturday kitchen



taste and see that the Lord is good!

### 2019 Saturday Kitchen Calendar Complete – New Hosts!

The Saturday Kitchen calendar for 2019 is organized and our UP Church is again blessed to be the site for this community outreach, serving a free meal to 80-100 individuals each Saturday noon. There continue to be our six supporting churches as part of the regular rotation of about six times per year: First Baptist, Immanuel Lutheran, St. James Catholic, United Methodist, Washington Mennonite and, of course our own U.P. Church.

It's exciting to share that we are welcoming 2 new hosts for 2019: Reformed Presbyterian Church (1) and U.P. Home (1).

There are also our eight other groups, along with our two new groups, which occasionally host. Those groups are Assembly of God Church/Tuesday a.m. Optimists (4), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (4), HACAP (2), Halcyon House (1), "our" Pathfinders Sunday School Class (1), 3 local P.E.O. chapters (2), Prairie Pride 4-H Group (1), and Washington County Hospital and Clinics (2).

If you have questions or are interested in helping with the Saturday Kitchen, we'd love to have you! Please contact the church office (653-6588) or call Joe or Marde McConnell at 653-3884.

By the way, our next "hosting date" is December 22nd - please consider serving others and having some fun with us on the 22nd!

All articles for next month's newsletter are due the 21st of the month.

Presbyterian Women's

Rev. Kitch Shatzer will be speaking  
on her recent trip to the Middle East

## *Christmas Tea* December 5th at 1:30 pm



### *Don't Forget!!*

**Join us to Help Decorate our Church  
Saturday December 1st at 9:00 am**

## *Happy Birthday*

1 Linda Boston  
2 Nick Shelman  
3 Marcus Henry  
3 Henry Tompkins  
5 Emma Alderton  
5 Jim Buitendorp  
7 Lois Holland  
9 Rachel Sands  
10 Blaine Rees  
12 Barry Johnson  
13 Lisa Buitendorp  
15 Alicia Mackey  
15 Harry Rader

16 Kaitlin Buchholz  
18 Kristin Schell  
19 Jamie Rich  
20 Chayse Jaspering  
20 Sarah Robison  
21 Joe McConnell  
22 William Guenther  
24 Dyann Graber  
24 Cyrus Graber  
24 Ian Maize  
24 Sue Reed  
26 Kylee Porter  
26 Erin Thorius

26 Colton Twinam  
27 Austin Knupp  
28 Alecia Goff  
28 Cate Schiefer  
29 Dorothy Koehler-Yoder  
30 Beckett Miller  
30 Gary Pump  
30 Emory VanGerpen  
30 Lorraine Williams  
31 Ada Kleese  
31 Jayse Thorius

---

## From the Library

### Non Fiction:

Nearing Home by Billy Graham

Reckless Faith by Beth Guckenberger

### Fiction:

In this Moment by Karen Kingsburry

### Media:

Joy-Filled Life

### Youth Fiction:

Trapped by Melody Carson

Doubletake by Melody Carson

Girl Talk with God by Susie Shellenberger

### Books by local authors:

Handwritten Bible Project



*Please stop in  
and check  
out our great  
selection of  
Christmas books  
and videos.*

---

## Finance Report

Pledged and non-pledged income through the end of October is 7% below projected figures. Expenses as of Oct 31st are running 6% below projections. Please continue your stewardship these last two months to cover our projected expenses.

*If you still owe on your Sanctuary Pledge, please consider finalizing your pledge by the end of the year.*

## WE ARE TAKING ANOTHER GARMENT ORDER!

Orders are due December 3rd! Absolutely no late orders will be taken! Contact the office if interested, see the different styles and colors of garments offered, then fill out an order form.

Tee Shirts-\$15 • Hooded Sweat Shirt-\$25 • Crew Neck Sweat Shirts-\$20  
Baseball Tees With 3/4 Length Sleeves-\$15