

HAPPY  
*New Year*

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.

PHIL 4:4

#### January Highlights

1st New Year's Day (Office Closed)  
3rd Mobile Food Pantry  
9th PW at UP Home  
15th Finance

16th Session  
21st Deacons  
22nd Hospice Soup Supper  
27th Annual Meeting





## From the Pastor...

### WELCOME PASTOR ERIN KAYE!

*Join us for her first  
service on January 13th.*



*Friends,*

*As I contemplate our move to Iowa and the beginning of 2019, a fragment of a quote has been circling through my mind. 'Begin as you mean to go on'. New beginnings are exciting but scary. They are a time to consider how we mean to change and to grow, which is why New Year's is so frequently used as a time to establish resolutions I suppose. New beginnings are also a time to look back on the past in preparation for the future. As we do this, we can all see places where we have fallen short. I can say this with confidence because we have all fallen short, no matter how perfect our lives might appear to those around us. As I have considered both the places where I might wish to improve and the impending change in our lives, 'Begin as you mean to go on' has continued to circulate and bubble in my mind.*

*Finally, I looked it up. Lo and behold, the author is Charles Spurgeon, a famous preacher who lived during the late 1800's and was a prolific writer of sermons, commentaries, books on prayer, devotionals, poetry, hymns, and more. Even more interesting was the full quote. "Begin as you mean to go on, and go on as you began, and let the Lord be all in all to you."*

*Friends, as we begin this New Year together and as we begin this new journey together, let's all seek to begin as we mean to go on. To pledge first and foremost to love God and to love others. Secondly, to recognize that we have all fallen short and that we will all continue to fall short, but to offer both ourselves and others the same grace offered us by Jesus Christ. May the Lord indeed be all in all to you.*  
*Peace, Erin*

1 Peyton Baughman  
1 Jason Baughman  
1 Grace Buckingham  
1 Kathy Hunt  
1 Connie Schuster  
1 Addy Sents  
4 Amy Bruner  
4 Aaron Rich  
5 Kyle Anderson  
5 Esther Bordwell  
6 Gabriela Anderson  
6 Richard Schenk  
7 Jackie Ross

9 Linden Brinning  
10 Roy Carter  
10 Clem Griffith  
11 Molly Sparks  
12 Davida Nicholson  
13 Sarah Hall  
13 Maxine Martin  
13 Kora Miller  
13 Noah Rich  
13 Tracy Strabala  
15 Gracie Cleverly  
15 Lou Slight  
15 Shelly Stewart

16 Vivian Griffith  
16 Gary Herlein  
17 Larry Krotz  
17 Brennen Westphal  
19 Randy Fehr  
19 Jake Thorius  
20 Andrew Kaufman  
22 Vernie Lowry  
22 Ted Stewart  
23 Sarah Miles  
23 Tyler Rees  
24 Kaylin Long  
24 Mitchell Stewart

25 Julie Mangold  
26 Chandler Mullens  
28 Jillian Goff  
28 Lyle Stacy  
28 Shirley Whisler  
29 Rick Bordwell  
30 Cyndy McCall  
31 Emerson Smith





# A Fond Farewell from Pastor K...

In all of my other churches, my last newsletter began like this...

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

Some years ago, I did something I rarely do... I saw a movie. The movie I saw was “Nanny McPhee.” At the time I rented it I had no idea it was so relevant to the life of the church. Though I had never heard of it, I liked what I saw on the cover. “A modern day Mary Poppins story’ it read (or some such thing).

At the beginning of the movie the viewers are shown an empty chair. The chair represents the mother of the family who died some time ago... leaving her husband to care for their seven children. Unfortunately, what time and attention he once gave them grows smaller and smaller with time. With the loss of their mother, and the growing distance between themselves and their father, the children’s world grows even darker. They learn they must fend for themselves... they learn others are not to be trusted...they “see through a mirror dimly.” In desperation for their father’s attention, the children work hard to drive away every single nanny he hires...and they succeed. 17 nannies come and go before Nanny McPhee arrives on the scene.

In the beginning, Nanny McPhee looks a bit like an old hag...complete with warts, a big nose, one large tooth which hangs outside her mouth, eyebrows that run together as one, etc. Not the sort of nanny one would normally hire, but the family is out of options. Nanny McPhee it is. She tells them she is there to teach them five lessons. Of course, the children rebel against her immediately. “We don’t want you Nanny McPhee!” one of the children tells her. To which she replies, “Right now you don’t want me but you do need me so I must stay. However a day is coming when you will want me, but you will no longer need me and then I must go.” As each of the lessons is learned, Nanny McPhee loses one or more of the unsightly things the family sees whenever they look at her (her warts, her big nose, the tooth that sticks out, etc.) until, by the time she leaves, all the family sees is her beauty.

As I look back at my time here at United Presbyterian Church, I realize my journey with the church has been a little like Nanny McPhee’s journey with the children. She came at a time when she was needed and left when that need ended. Like Nanny McPhee, I come so I might go...leaving the church ready for the one who will be here permanently...or at least for the next many years.

And just as the children learned some valuable lessons from Nanny McPhee during her time with them, I hope my time with this church has reminded you of some valuable lessons. Lessons such as...

- ♦ The work of the church doesn’t belong to the handful of elders that make up the Session. The great commission...the promotion of God’s kingdom...belongs to all who claim Jesus as their Lord and Savior. As the Body of Christ, each member of the Body is called to do their share...to pull their weight...giving of their time, talent, and money to grow God’s kingdom.
- ♦ The proof of one’s salvation is found in one’s “fruit.” Jesus said, “Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) The fruit of those
- ♦ actively participating in the work and worship of the church is visible to those both within and outside of the church.
  - ♦ The church doesn’t have to be “uniform” to be “unified.”
- ♦ Welcoming the stranger is one way to get people into church. Discipleship is a way to keep them.
- ♦ Sometimes those who appear to have the smallest of gifts are the lynch pins of the church. As the old saying goes, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.”

This church has a great history of discipleship, missions, and ministries.  
May it be your present and future as well!



## INSIDE OUT (Senior High)

Jan 6th: 6:30pm @ UPChurch  
 Jan 13th: 6:30pm @ UPChurch  
 Jan 20th: 6:30pm @ UPChurch  
 Jan 25th: Winter Jam - meet at  
 UPChurch @ 3:45pm  
 Jan 27th: Not Meeting because of  
 Winter Jam on Friday Night

## Winter Jam

Winter Jam is a Christian Music Concert that is really a spectacular opportunity. There are no ticket sales, you simply show up at the door on the day of the concert, pay \$15, and then get to listen to 3-4 hours of some of the best Christian artists in the country. It'll be a late night, but it's a great time at an awesome bargain. We will meet at the church at 3:45 on Friday afternoon and leave as soon as everyone arrives. Doors open at 6pm, the concert starts at 7pm and goes until after 11pm. We will get back in the wee early morning hours on Saturday.

## CREW (Middle School)

Jan 6th: 3:30pm @ UPChurch  
 Jan 20th: 3:30pm @ UPChurch  
 Feb 1-3: Quake

## CREW: Trip to Quake in Des Moines February 1-3

CREW will be going to Quake Friday February 1st - Sunday February 3rd. We will meet at the church immediately after school on Friday and head on out. The theme for Quake this year is "Diverge", which is inspired by Romans 12:2 ("do not conform to the pattern of this world..."). We plan on getting back to Washington around 2pm on Sunday. This weekend trip has always been a lot of fun and we look forward to another trip. It's not too late to sign up to go, if you haven't already, but time is starting to run short, so let Jared know as soon as you can if you want to go.



## Son City (Elementary School)

Jan 6th: 9:30am "God Makes Adjustments" -- Visit with a Chiropractor  
 Jan 13th: 9:30am - "What's in the Bible" pt 3  
 Jan 20th: 9:30am - "Jesus is the Ultimate Firefighter" -- Visit to Fire Station  
 Jan 27th: 9:30am - "What's in the Bible" pt 4

## Upcoming Events

Our experienced-based learning opportunities continue in 2019. On Jan 6 we will be visited by a Chiropractor to learn about how God makes adjustments. On Jan 20, we will be heading to the fire-department to learn about the ultimate firefighter. The other 2 Sundays of January we will meet in the Theater to learn more about "What's in the Bible". We are excited about the experiences that we are planning this month and hope the kids are as excited as we are.

Thank you from the Mission Committee to all who have given of your time, talents and treasure in December. It was a busy month of opportunities and giving back of all of the riches that we all have been given. We had over 20 people volunteer to ring bells at Hy-Vee on 2 different days. That money goes to help people locally who are in need throughout the year. We have had many donations of mittens, hats and scarves. Several families, Sunday School classes and youth groups adopted 11 families to provide gifts to those who may not have gotten any presents this year.



We were able to sell 70 ornaments to benefit both 10,000 Villages and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). We hope that as you see them on your Christmas tree in the years to come, you will be reminded of the UP Church and our mission to the world. We also had the brunch before the children and youth service. We served over 125 people and were able to raise almost \$1000 for PDA between the brunch and ornament sales. PDA is currently involved in assisting many in disasters like the California fires, Hurricane Michael, Haiti earthquake, Indonesia floods, Guatemala volcanic eruption, California mudslides, Peru flooding, just to name a few. Their theme "Out of Chaos, Hope" is so fitting for all the good that they do in this world.

Watch for what is coming up next year. We want you to become more acquainted with the missionaries that our church is sponsoring overseas. Look for more information about them and more projects here locally.



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

reaches 98 different home 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.



## Kitchen Lost and Found Items

Please check the counter on the south wall in the church kitchen. There are a number of non-labeled, cooking items, and even an insulated cup, which have been sitting there for some time. We'd love for these items to be returned to their owners. After Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> these items will be given a new home!!



## Happy New Year from your Deacons!

### Live As Examples of Jesus!

As 2018 comes to a close and a new year is upon us, we, your Board of Deacons, are taking a look at the ministries that we have coordinated this past year. We are asking ourselves “are we really modeling what Jesus taught us to do?” When deacons are ordained and installed, they vow to “share the love and justice of our Lord Jesus to all, by showing concern and extending help to the friendless and to all those in need.” Another way of saying this is to “Live as Examples of Jesus.” It is a short phrase but it includes quite an overwhelming list, such as:

- \*Prompt us, O Lord...to worship God with our whole being!
- \*To make faithful use of our gifts and talents and in a humble manner!

- \*To encourage others with words that create hope and with deeds that bring joy!
- \*To minister to the rich and poor alike, while respecting their need for dignity!
- \*To be compassionate to the needy and to reach out to the lonely!
- \*To be sensitive to victims of harm and proactive to those victims of injustice!

And there is more---and more--- and some more! As 2019 rolls in, may each of us let our New Year resolution be to strive to “Live as Examples of Jesus!” We might think: What an impossible standard that is! Can all those things really be expected of us? Yet to each of us Jesus says, “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, learn from me, and you will find rest for your souls, for the yoke is easy and His burden is light.”

Kathy H., Kathy K., Peyton C., Marde M., Mary A.

## the saturday kitchen

taste and see that the Lord is good!

On our “hosting date” of December 22<sup>nd</sup> we returned to our popular, winter menu of baked ham; broccoli, rice and cheese casserole; carrot chips; fresh fruit cups and brownies. Also, Dorothy Koehler graciously agreed to share her talents and played some familiar Christmas carols, as background music. And, little candy cane Christmas favors made by Jane Cuddeback were given to each of our guests.

As always, please contact the church office (653-6588) or call Joe or Marde McConnell at 653-3884 if you have questions or are interested in helping with the Saturday Kitchen, we’d love to have you! You could be a brownie maker, a food prep person, a greeter, a server or – you get the idea! Whatever your talent or desire, we have a place for you to help with our next Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Kitchen date! You’ll be glad you did because honoring God in serving others in our community in need of food and friendship is truly sharing your faith.

#### Church Contacts

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## **Welcome New Members!!**

Once you receive this newsletter eight individuals will have chosen to become part of our church family. To each of them we say, “WELCOME!” While we’ll have more specific information about each of these



people in next month’s newsletter, we want to introduce them to you now. These new members are: Larry Bartlett; Alice Martin and her nephew Gary Herlein; Mary Oviatt; and Joe and Julie Murphy and their high school sons, Brennan and Keatyn.

We feel honored that each of these individuals has chosen to become a part of our church family and again we say, “WELCOME.” Together we all Love God and Love Others, as we serve God in our daily walk.

Many thanks to Pastor K for meeting with these individuals and encouraging their desire to become part of our UPC family.

## **NEW LIBRARY ADDITIONS!**



We are excited to be able to offer some new additions to the library. For anyone who watched the Christmas Program on December 16th, *Mouses Christmas Gift*, which was read by Isabella Lujan, is now available in the library, as is *Jesus Calling: The Story of Christmas* by Sarah Young.

The other new book to share is actually a 6 volume set. Realizing that the Bible can sometimes be a little intimidating to pick-up and start reading, especially with all of the chapter and verse markings, side notes, and margin notations, we have purchased the ESV Reader’s Bible.

The *ESV Reader’s Bible 2 Volume Softcover Set* is a seamless and beautifully designed multi-volume edition of Scripture. Arranged to flow smoothly with no verse or chapter numbers, this Bible reads easily like a book. *The ESV Reader’s Bible* is conveniently arranged into six volumes using the traditional Jewish divisions for the Old Testament Scriptures and including the New Testament as the last two volumes. If you have ever felt a little overwhelmed by all of the notes and chapter numbers found in most Bibles, stop by the library and pick up one of the volumes from the set and start reading.



## Church Family News . . . just so you know!

No doubt you've seen church family members wearing "Love God and Love Others" t-shirts and sweatshirts, etc. Over 120 items have been purchased by our church family! Another sale of items will take place this spring, as this is a special project supporting our youth and their annual, spring mission trip! Thanks, Angie Schluetter, for coordinating the last order!

Speaking of the church apparel, "our" Jesse Buchholz was wearing one of "our" shirts in her Missouri college setting and one of her friends read the "Love God Love Others" on the front of her shirt and said, "Well, that pretty much says it all."

Karen Trotman deserves a huge "thank you." She works very hard to coordinate our church "Concession Stand 5 Workers" with the Carver Hawkeye Arena Aramark people. She juggles everyone's schedules, figures out which events we can work and who's working the events chosen.

All funds raised help "us" support many worthwhile projects which help others, as well enabling us to raise funds for our adult mission trips. If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity to have fun with others in our church family, contact Karen (653-6317) or the church office (653-6588). Many thanks again!

Our church has a new vacuum cleaner – yea! The vacuum cleaner "doctor" checked things over and repaired one vacuum and said the other was terminal. So . . . we now have one much improved vacuum cleaner, one new one, and another existing one, too – good news!



Articles for the February  
newsletter are due  
Wednesday, January 23



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



## Team UP and Friends

We're so happy to share that at our Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> event at Unc and Neph's, Team U.P. and Friends kicked off 2019 Relay for Life fund raising with a check for \$120! Together we're ALL fighting cancer and supporting those who lives are being affected by cancer! We're so grateful to Dave Sorrell for giving us (and other community groups) the opportunity to fund raise at Unc and Neph's.

Keep checking the church newsletter, as we plan to have a winter, Community Impact Night at Pizza Ranch, too! Please mark your calendars for the Washington County 2019 Relay for Life event: June 22, 2019 – where together we'll "Give Cancer the Boot!"

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





## From the Session....

At the last session meeting of the year session members had an opportunity to meet and visit with those who will be welcomed as members into our church on Sunday, Dec. 23.

Those joining are Mary Oviatt, Larry Bartlett, Alice Martin, Gary Herlein, and Joe, Julie, Brennan and Keaton Murphy. Joe, Keaton, Brennan and Gary will also be receiving the sacrament of baptism. We are excited to have them join with us as they continue their faith journey. Also at the meeting were Brandon Bishop, Barb Liebe, and Roy Carter (youth elder) newly elected elders who will be serving on the session. They responded to questions from the session concerning their areas of interest to serve.

The end of the year continues to bring changes as we say good-bye to Pastor K. Her time here was short but she served with energy, enthusiasm and creative leadership and she leaves us with a BIG thank you from the session and congregation. We look forward to welcoming Pastor Erin and her family. She will be leading the service on Sunday, January 13. The New Year brings with it challenges and opportunities, some new and some on-going from last year. God has given us all we need and even more to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of 2019. With God leading and the Spirit moving each one of us we look forward to an exciting and fruitful 2019.

Christmas Blessings and a prayer for a Fruitful New Year  
Kay Hall



### **“ELF” Family Movie Night – Huge Success!**



Tons of Kids and adults (even MANY non-parent adults!) had a great time on our Dec, 7<sup>th</sup> “movie night.” Rick Pierce was even heard saying, “This is so much fun - when’s the next one going to be?” And, just so you know . . . tentative plans are underway for a February Movie Night!



Nothing beats seeing and hearing all those excited kids, running around in their jammies and squealing with delight, as they grabbed their colorful, movie caddy containing their bag of yummy, movie popcorn; a small candy of their choice; and a small can of non-caFFEinated pop. And . . . then seeing the entire front of the sanctuary lined up with sleeping bags, blankets, pillows . . . and KIDS – it’s just too cute for words!



Watch for publicity about the next movie night and plan to join in on the fun! MANY THANKS to Heather Anderson, April Cuddeback, Katie Lujan, Diana Rich and Erin Thorius for their time and enthusiasm in coordinating this highly-popular, church, family event.





## Great News from the Stewardship Committee!

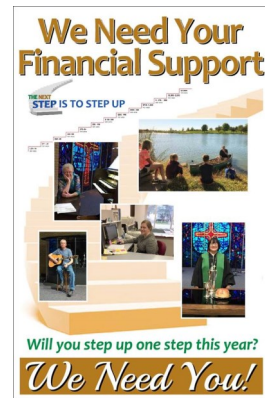
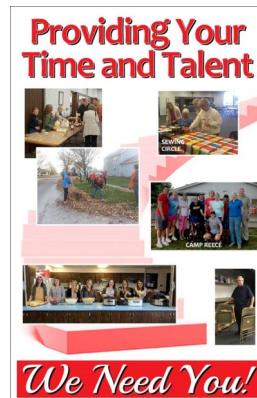
We're wrapping up our 2019 Stewardship Campaign and we're so excited and grateful to EACH of you! We're happy to report we're very close to reaching our goal! We still have a few more contacts to make but we're so pleased with everyone's very generous gifts. Thanks to you, our church family, for once again "Stepping Up" as together we "Love God and Love Others."

Thanks to a great committee of Sandy Dunlap, Kathy Hunt, Cyndy McCall, Mary Lou Saforek, Anne Youngman, and Joe McConnell and also thank you to Pastor Karen - each for your commitment, creativity and hard work. This is a wonderful way to begin 2019 with our new pastor, Pastor Erin.

## 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:



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, Cyndy 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

ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

# Sunday, January 27th