

UPChurch

Love God. Love Others.

March 2019



Welcome to our new members! (L-R: Keaton, Brennan, Joe, and Julie Murphy, Mary Oviatt, Alice Martin, Gary Herlein, and Larry Bartlett.
See pages 7/8 for more details!

March Highlights

1st World Day of Prayer
2nd WE DO Sat Kitchen
2nd Chili Cook-off & Game Night
6th Ash Wednesday

7th Optimist Chicken/Biscuit Dinner
10th Daylight Savings
13th PW Meeting @ UP Home
19th Finance
20th Session



From the Pastor...

Friends,

Lent is upon us! No, not the kind that comes out of the dryer (or your bellybutton!). Lent is a time period during the church year, specifically the six weeks before Easter. Each year, Easter falls on a different date.

According to thoughtco.com, 'At the heart of the matter lies a simple explanation. Easter is a movable feast. The earliest believers in the church of Asia Minor wished to keep the observance of Easter correlated to the Jewish Passover. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ happened after the Passover, so followers wanted Easter always to be celebrated after the Passover. And, since the Jewish holiday calendar is based on solar and lunar cycles, each feast day is movable, with dates shifting from year to year.' This year Easter falls relatively late, on Sunday, April 21. This means that Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6, which is called Ash Wednesday. In the early church, Lent was a time for new believers to prepare themselves for membership in the church, and more recently it has been a time when Christians focus on the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, in preparation for Easter.



This Lent, our theme is 'Cultivating and Letting Go.' Together we will explore what must be cultivated within ourselves to further God's work through us. We will also contemplate letting go of things that may be hindering our positive influence in the world.

We will begin with a special service on Ash Wednesday. There will be readings, songs, times of silence, and chances to move around and explore different prayer stations before we are marked with the sign of the cross and sent forth. This service is appropriate for all ages!

During Sunday worship the following five weeks, we will explore different guideposts for cultivating and letting go. These will include:

CULTIVATING GRATITUDE AND JOY –LETTING GO OF SCARCITY
CULTIVATING INTUITION AND TRUSTING FAITH –LETTING GO OF THE NEED FOR CERTAINTY
CULTIVATING CREATIVITY –LETTING GO OF COMPARISON
CULTIVATING CALM AND STILLNESS –LETTING GO OF ANXIETY AS A LIFESTYLE
CULTIVATING LAUGHTER, SONG, AND DANCE –LETTING GO OF BEING COOL AND “ALWAYS IN CONTROL”

I hope that as we enter this season and prepare our hearts and spirits for the resurrection of Jesus, you will come and experience the cultivating and letting go, and that you will be enriched!

Blessings, Erin

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Director of Youth

Jared Long
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Kingdom Kids Preschool

Brenda Miles
kkpwash@gmail.com

INSIDE OUT (Senior High)

March 3rd: 6:30pm @ UPChurch
 March 10th: 6:30pm @ UPChurch
 March 17th: 6:30pm @ UPChurch
 March 24th: 6:30pm @ UPChurch
 March 31st: Mission Market



Inside Out: Mission Market - Sunday March 31st.

This summer the Senior High Youth will be heading to Spirit Lake Ministries in North Dakota to serve for a week on this Native American reservation. We will have the opportunity to work on some small construction projects as well as to help out with a children's program each afternoon. The Mission Market is one of the primary ways that we have to raise money each year for our mission trips. This year we will be holding the Mission Market on Sunday March 31st. Please make note that there will only be one worship service on this Sunday at 10:45am, which will be followed directly by a luncheon and the auction. We hope to see you all there!

CREW (Middle School)

March 3rd: 3:30pm @ UPChurch
 March 24th: 3:30pm @ UPChurch
 (moved a week later for Spring Break)

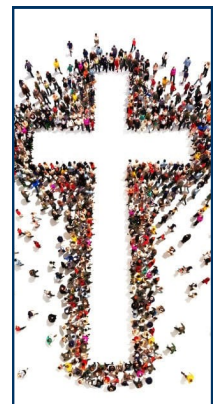
Because of Spring Break we will not be meeting on March 17th, however we will meet on March 24th instead. We will meet at our normal time, 3:30 - 5pm.



Son City (Elementary School)

March 3rd: 9:30am - Field trip to the Optometrist - "The Blind Need Faith"
 March 10th: 9:30am - Dramatic Storytelling in Parable Productions
 March 17th: 9:30am - @ UPChurch to work on a project
 March 24th: 9:30am - Field trip to Auto Body Shop - "God doesn't want you to hurt"
 March 31st: 9:30am - We will be watching a movie in the theater.

Providing that we don't get snowed out (c'mon March, we are counting on you being warmer) we plan to continue our field trips around town. This month we will be visiting an optometrist and an auto body shop where we will learn about how "the blind need faith" and "God doesn't want us to hurt." It should be another exciting month!





Chili Cook-off and Family Game Night!

On Saturday March 2nd we will be hosting a chili cook-off and game night. Dinner will start at 5pm, games around 6. This is meant as an opportunity to get out in the midst of a long winter to enjoy a warm bowl of chili and the warmth (intense heat) of friendly competition.

C'mon out and enjoy the evening!
We will have table games set up to play for those that are interested, as well as some of the more active games that we play with the youth on Sunday evenings. You don't need to bring a thing, just come and enjoy. However, if you make a pretty good pot of chili, feel free to enter it into the cook-off to see if you can win the big prize, and take home braggin' rights.



**Daylight Savings is
Sunday, March 10th!**



Connect with us on Facebook:

“Washington United Presbyterian Church” “Kingdom Kids Preschool Washington Iowa”

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, March 15th at 6:15 pm

Visually stunning, magnificent musical score, fun & amazing storytelling. Lovely family film your children will enjoy.



KRISTIN HAMNER - Working in the Dominican Republic



Kristin's friend, Pastor K, suggested we consider supporting her in her ministry in the Dominican Republic where she is the National Director for Foundation for Peace's year-round mission programs and serves as Chief of Staff for all in-county staff and interns. We became especially interested because

of her Midwest roots. Kristin participated in 2 short-term summer mission trips through her home church, 1st Presbyterian of Grand Island, NE. During those trips, she saw and felt God actively working in her own life and the lives of those around her and felt the call to continue serving. Kristin graduated from Dubuque Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree and was ordained by the Central Nebraska Presbytery. Kristin serves with her son, Nicolas by her side. It is our hope to also encourage and support her and her son through opportunities ahead of us. "What a privilege it is to see lives change as we build bridges between churches in the States and churches in the Dominican Republic."

Dear UPC Congregation,

Ariel Jesus (translated in English to "Jesus's Warrior") now has a home because of your love! This newborn baby (pictured right), born only one day before we got to Texas, has a roof over his head and a new place to worship Jesus. Providing shelter for this



young one and his family was one of many projects our group was tasked with. Over the course of ten days, our Central group built two houses, 4 classrooms in the church for the youth and

adults alike to learn about Christ, and created a "carnival" for the members of the church we partner with to enjoy fellowship with the college students who took the time to help their community in need. This "Carnival" was one of the most unique missions I've



ever been a part of. Gathered in a big shed, our task was not to feed the hungry or give them blankets.

Our intent was to establish relationships with the men and women of the church we were there to help. We played games, colored little wooden crosses, and

enjoyed being in each other's company. Our group, their church, and community members having fun under one roof in the name of the Lord really showed how much relationships with each other can strengthen our relationship with God. The yellow house is known as the "Big House". Although it only has ten more feet in square footage than the gray house, the Big House will put a roof under seven children and two parents. I wish you all could have been there to see it. The big kids helped me put up siding while the little kids did a lot of playing (and a little painting). At the end when we prayed for the house, the mother became overwhelmed in tears and praised God as loud as she could (in Spanish). She kept repeating "Gracias Señor" over and over again until she couldn't stay up anymore. In that moment, everyone felt God's presence in the house. Again, I'd really like to thank everyone who contributed to this mission. I know you will probably never see the faces of the families you've helped, but you can take it from me: these families will never forget what you did. Your willingness to help put a smile on God's face that won't fade for a long time. Sincerely, John Dillon





From your Deacons...

ARE YOU IN NEED OF A RIDE? Are you finding it difficult to drive to church, church activities, or to doctor or therapy appointments? If this is happening with you, let the Deacons help arrange for someone to drive you! The coordinator for transportation is Larry Bartlett.--- So, just give Larry a call at 653-4461 and he will make arrangements to get you where you need to be!



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 the fellowship hall where you can indicate of your willingness. You may also contact Larry Barlett at a 653- 446 and let him know of your willingness to share your gifts in this way

the saturday kitchen

Saturday Kitchen Hosts Gather!

A gathering of many of the Saturday Kitchen hosts took place at noon on Monday, Feb. 18th. Over pizza, salad and cookies, the more than eighteen who attended were provided an opportunity to meet one another and to share their experiences. Also, we, as "the host church location folks," heard how we can be more helpful or supportive of the other host churches and groups. It was a good time of visiting and laughter, too!

It's hard to believe the Saturday Kitchen began in January of 2012 with 12 guests and we now have 80 -100 guests most every Saturday.

In closing, the hosts groups expressed how very grateful they were to "us" for sharing our church and kitchen facilities each and every Saturday throughout the year. All in attendance agreed that they were blessed to be a part of the Saturday Kitchen, a wonderful, community outreach of love and caring and food.

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 at 1221mcconnell@gmail.com.

Session Update!

I hope you were able to attend the Congregational Annual Meeting on January 27th. If you weren't there and don't have a copy of the 2018 Annual Report I encourage you to drop by the church and pick up a copy. Last month I said that I would be sharing the names of those serving on various ministry teams of the session. In the report this

information is to be found on pages eight and nine for you to reference. You will find reports from the staff, ministry teams, Deacons, Kingdom Kids, Presbyterian Women and Saturday Kitchen. The session report and statistical report give an update of our membership. You will find a complete financial report along with 2019 proposed budget, endowment assets/

distributions and memorial fund information. If you have questions or want more information in a certain area call the office and they will be glad to help. Session will be meeting tomorrow night (2/20) so nothing to report at this time. Looking ahead: 15 days from today is Ash Wednesday, 19 days from today Daylight Savings Time begins and 29 days from today SPRING begins!! Kay Hall, clerk of session



Welcome to Our New Members!

LARRY BARTLETT:

Larry Bartlett was born and raised in New Sharon, IA and graduated from North Mahaska High School. He attended Drake University where he met his wife of over 50 years, Sara. He graduated from Drake and began his career as a pharmacist. He worked for Walgreens in Ankeny and later in Iowa City before purchasing Washington's McDaniel's Drug Store. In 1976 Larry and Sara moved here with his family of two small boys, Andy and David.

Larry eventually sold his business and completed his pharmacy career working for HyVee in Washington. He enjoys retirement and their home on the U.P. Home Campus where each summer he sets up his outdoor train set in their beautifully landscaped yard. He and Sara like entertaining in their "barn cottage" at the U.P. Home. They enjoy taking short road trips to visit their five grandsons who live in neighboring states, Andy with his wife and three sons in Illinois and David with his wife and two sons in Wisconsin. He and Sara have had some interesting (!) travel experiences – ask Larry!

Larry has found our U.P. Church to be very welcoming – he's already part of the Friday morning men's group and has helped with the Saturday Kitchen! Larry, we're so happy to have you as part of our U.P. Church family!

ALICE MARTIN and GARY HERLEIN:

Alice (aunt) and Gary (nephew) were both born at the University of Iowa Hospital, though Alice's family was living in Illinois and Gary's in Muscatine! During her growing up years Alice's family lived along the Mississippi River moving between Iowa and Illinois. She has fond childhood memories of playing with her two sisters and two brothers.

Gary grew up with his grandparents in Muscatine and in 1999 Alice became Gary's guardian. They live in separate apartments in the Autumn Park Apartment complex.

Alice interestingly once worked in a ladder factory in Muscatine and she moved to Washington 20 years ago. Gary is a very busy fella, as he works three days a week at Good Will, two days at the Redemption Center and one day at WDCD! In their free time they both enjoy playing games on their laptop computers. They also have great memories of a bus trip they took together to visit her sister in Alabama. Alice came to our church through the friendliness and encouragement of Presbyterian neighbors, neighbors when she lived in Ainsworth and neighbors later in Washington. She and Gary have enjoyed serving as Sunday morning greeters and look forward to serving as greeters in the future. Alice hopes to help to serve Meals on Wheels, too. We're SO grateful to have you both in our church family, Alice and Gary.

THE MURPHY FAMILY: JOE, JULIE, BRENNAN AND KEATON:

Julie grew up in Conesville and graduated from Columbus Junction High School, where her mom was a teacher. Joe grew up in Ottumwa and Eldon and he graduated from Cardinal High School. They met on Julie's birthday in Iowa City, where she was attending college and Joe was working.

(continued on next page)





Welcome to Our New Members cont'd...

They later married and she used her fine arts degree from the U of I as a graphic designer. She worked in several places until she decided to go back to school to become an art teacher. She graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College and began teaching middle school art in Fairfield. A few years later she transferred to Washington Middle School and two years ago she became the Washington high school art teacher. She enjoys being able to do more advanced projects with her older students.

For years Joe has worked in various managerial positions, most recently in North Liberty. He enjoys cooking – and recently he even made their own ravioli pasta noodles and filling! The family currently lives in Keota, though Brennan and Keaton attend high school in Washington. Brennan and Keaton are both wrestlers, sing in the choir and served as counselors for the Camp Invention kids last summer. AND . . . they both have earned tons of silver cord hours, good job, Fellas!

However, Brennan and Keaton have very different personalities. Brennan, a senior, is interested in attending culinary arts school, enjoys doing graphic work on the computer and taking high school art classes. You may see him at Fareway, where he works part-time. Keaton loves all things technology – and made his own gaming computer! He hopes to someday work in the IT field. In high school he plays tuba in the band and helps with the sound and lighting for the school plays. Keaton's already been working with the sound and video team at the church and Brennan has helped with a Sat. Kitchen! And they've all helped with a Saturday Kitchen and with the Welcome Team and our Sunday refreshments. We're so grateful for their involvement in the life of the church already!

We welcome the Murphy Family, Julie and Joe and Brennan and Keaton. We're so pleased you chose to be a part of our UP Church Family and look forward to getting to know you each better!

MARY OVIATT:

Mary was born and raised during the depression and World War II. She lived on the family farm along the Mississippi River, the 2nd of eight children in a German Catholic family in which education and learning were strongly encouraged. Mary thanks her parents for that encouragement.

After graduating from high school in Guttenberg, IA, Mary attended nursing school in Wisconsin. Mary's nursing career, in varying capacities, "provided opportunities to move for this restless person." She lived in Dubuque and Iowa City, IA; Houston, TX; Chicago, IL; LaCrosse, WS; and even in Denmark!

She married her husband Bill, who she met in a singles group at a Presbyterian Church in Chicago! They moved to Raleigh, NC. It was there Mary changed her career to working for New York Life where she enjoyed NC, where they both felt the love of their Presbyterian, church family.

In 2006 Mary moved to New Mexico for the arid climate though she recently returned to her Iowa roots and she moved to Stewart Hall at the UP Home. She enjoys painting in her spare time, sharing her works with friends. She enjoys her new UP Church Family here and we're blessed to have Mary with her engaging smile, infectious laugh and the twinkle in her eye. Mary describes herself as a "risk taker of the highest order." Welcome, Mary, we're glad to have you!





Musicians and Singers Needed For The Praise Band

Want to be in a band?

Can you play an instrument or sing?

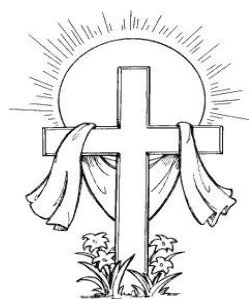
Would you like to help lead worship
during the Celebration service?

Come to a rehearsal on Thursday, March 7 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary or speak with Pastor Erin

CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

Join Us! Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday March 6th
6:30pm



"Honor" or "Remember"
a *Loved One* at Easter!

\$15.00 donation to the church will purchase an Easter lilly or a plant that will be used to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday and then it will be given to shut-in church family members. All donors will be recognized in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Return the form below to the church office by **Friday, March 29th.**

*Enclosed is \$ _____ toward the purchase of a plant (s)

*Donation in MEMORY/HONOR (circle one) of:

By (your name): _____



Church Family News ... just so you know!

Julie Murphy made the very yummy and pretty-looking Valentine cookies for our Sunday Fellowship Time on February 10th. She also added the fun, heart decorations on the tables. Thank you, Julie for sharing your "heart."

Saturday, February 9th was a big day at the church! Not only did we have a new host group for the Saturday Kitchen (Reformed Presbyterian Church friends) we also had Ada Kleese's Celebration of Life service at 2:00 with Betty Beenblossom, Carolyn Bollman, Janice Flory and Joyce Letts trying to prepare for that Fellowship

Time. The kitchen was VERY crazy! The above gals deserve a huge thank you for being so gracious, understanding and flexible with our new hosts.

We donated many pieces of outdated audio/visual equipment to Lincoln School this winter. These items will be used by kids in the Maker Space STEM Program. The school staff was very pleased to receive our donations and wanted you, our Church Family, to know how grateful they were to receive these items.

A special thank you is given to Kathy Knutson for so willingly and quickly repairing one of our Sunday Morning "Welcome" flags.



March 1, 2019
1:30 pm

**Washington United
Methodist Church**



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



**Articles for the April
newsletter are due
Wednesday, March 20th**



1 Gabriel Bruns
1 Jack Carter
1 Kaelyn Johnson
3 Jean Wollenberg
3 Jim Wood
4 Sophia Kleese
4 Isabella Lujan
4 Susan Rich
4 Butch Zwicky
5 Kiki Bruner
5 Sid Graber
5 Tom Hunt
6 Miranda Schuster

6 Spencer Woods
7 Angie Schluetter
7 Bob Wollenberg
7 Jordan Youngman
8 Phil Morris
9 Virginia Bordwell
10 Cayten Coakley
10 Stephanie Leiphart
11 Megan Eaton
11 Hayley Newlon
11 Virginia Smith
11 Donna Wheelan
12 Debra Helmick
12 Trevor Martin
12 Traci Stewart
13 Matteo Hernandez

13 Jacob Miles
15 Lila DePenning
15 Zander Martin
16 Grant Sobaski
16 Lance Sobaski
19 Teag Miller
21 Mildred Houseal
22 Sandra Krotz
22 Marde McConnell
22 Daniel Rodgers
22 Russ Woods
23 Sam Hall
23 Maci Williams
24 Birch Holden
25 Judy Murphy
26 Leland Saforek

27 Gailia Garland
27 Roger Miles
28 Brenda Miles
28 Alec Schiefer
30 Kinston Ross
31 Alex Pim



2019 Blood Drive Dates



Thursday, April 18th Washington
Lion's Club at the UP Church

Thursday, June 13th Knights of
Columbus at KC Hall

Thursday, August 8th AM Kiwanis
at the UP Church

Thursday, October 10th Optimist
Club at the UP Church

Thursday, December 12th Noon
Kiwanis at the UP Church

All drive times are 1:30pm-6:30pm

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 you can 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.



****Thank you Marde and Sandy for painting the pastor's office and cleaning out several cupboards around the church. You are welcome to stop in and see the fresh paint (and the pastor 😊) anytime!**

****THANK YOU to property for installing new lights in the kitchen and the office!**



MISSION MARKET



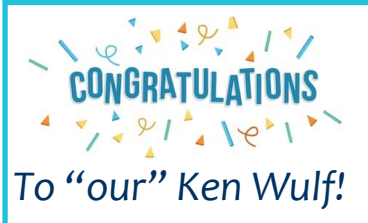
Fundraiser for Senior High Youth Mission Trip to Spirit Lake Ministries in North Dakota

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

Schedule change for that day

No Early Worship Service

Sunday School: 9:30 | Worship: 10:45 | Lunch (donation) | MISSION MARKET



Ken Wulf, Washington Regional math tutor, was awarded the “Kirkwood Difference Award”. The dedicated service provided by Kirkwood employees is one of the most important factors contributing to the success of Kirkwood Community College. This service is a difference that can be observed and felt in every classroom, lab, office, and hallway. Kirkwood’s Employee Recognition Committee surveyed recent Kirkwood alumni and asked them to identify an employee whom they felt exemplified this “Kirkwood Difference” and had a significant, positive impact on them in their career as a student with the College. The committee named Ken Wulf the Kirkwood Difference winner for 2019! Congratulations to Ken on this award and many thanks to him for his dedicated service and years of tutoring Washington County students!



Thank you for all of your caring thoughts, prayers and cards following my husband’s death. They are a great source of comfort now and will continue to be in the days ahead. Diana Henry



Cultivating Civil Community

Why do they Keep returning to Synod School?

- Christian fellowship
- Inspiring worship and song
- Growth in knowledge and faith
- Personal and spiritual renewal
- Fun for families and singles of all ages

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July 21–26, 2019
Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa
Discover Synod School!
www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool
 800-328-1880, ext. 207