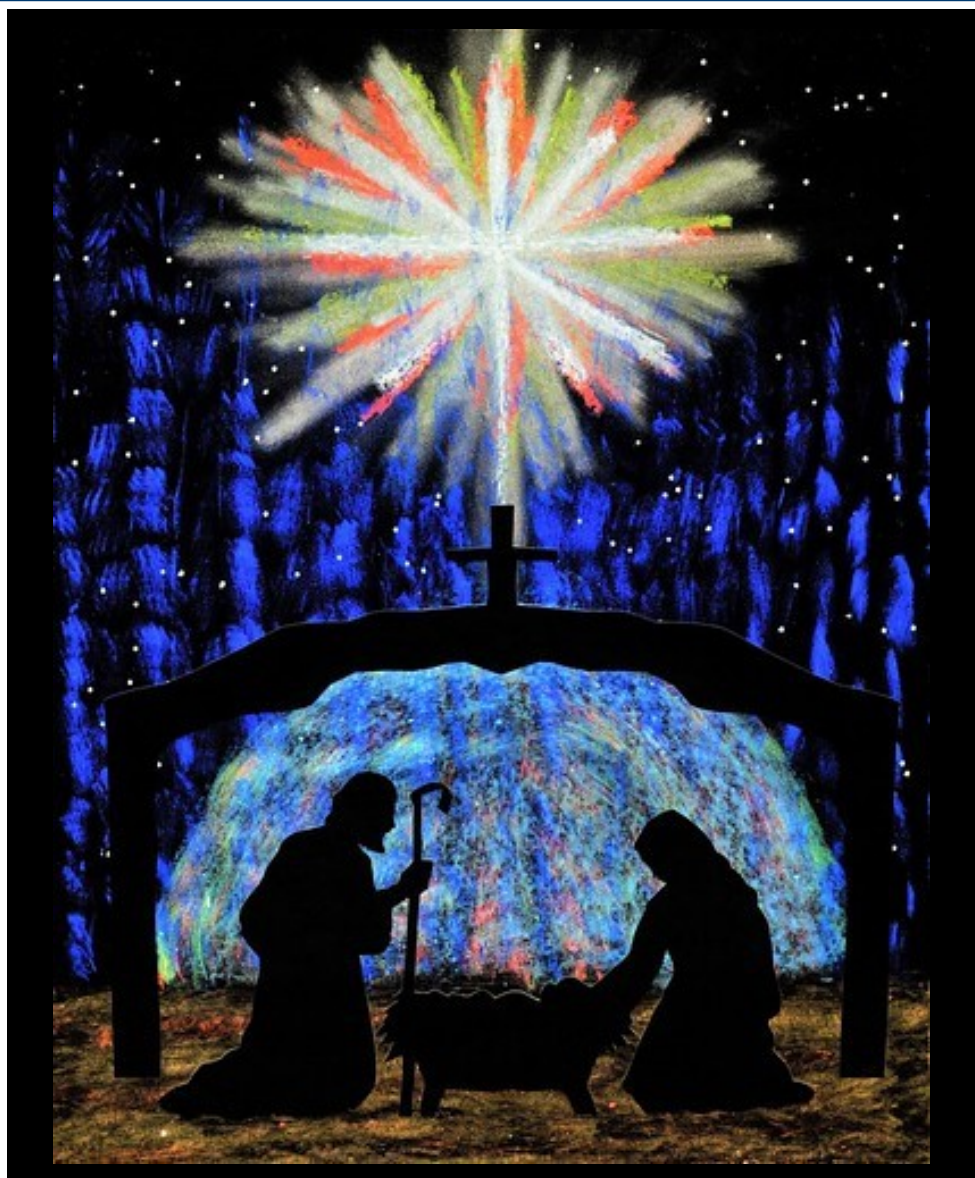


UPChurch

Love God. Love Others.

December 2019



December Highlights

1st Hanging of the Greens Service/
Stewardship Brunch
8th Congregational Meeting
8th UPLift
8th Confirmation Gathering

11th Session Meeting
15th Joy Offering/Youth Program
17th Finance Meeting
18th Praise Café
24th Christmas Eve Service
25th-27th Office Closed
29th Hymn Sing Service



From the Pastor...

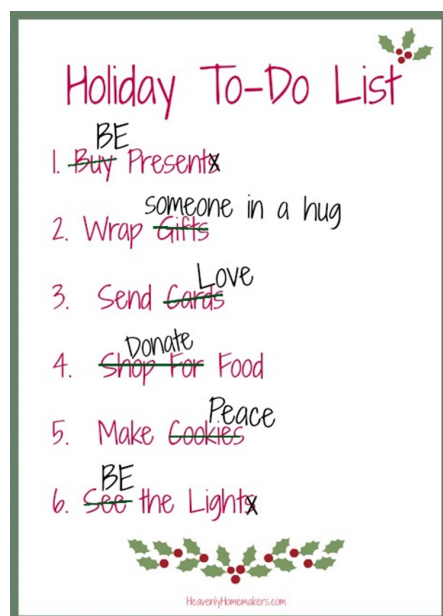
Friends,

Does your holiday to-do list seem to get longer the closer we get to Christmas? Does your holiday feel anything BUT peaceful? I know. Trust me. I. KNOW. That's why I really like this to-do list that I recently found. It reminds me of the importance of keeping what is important to the forefront, and allowing the rest of the stuff to slide if necessary. It reminds me to be intentional about what I do, and how I live. It reminds me of why we, as Christians, celebrate Christmas - to remember the arrival of a tiny baby into our world, a tiny baby whose life and death and resurrection would change our world. And boy, does our world need changing.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control - the gifts God promised us through the Holy Spirit - seem to be missing from under Christmas trees worldwide. But friends, YOU HAVE THESE GIFTS! God already gave them to you. I know you sometimes forget, and maybe they get shoved into the back of your mental closet, underneath the shoes you never wear, but they are within your possession.

This holiday season, I pray that you remember the gifts that are already in your possession, and that they guide your life, as we celebrate the child who was the greatest gift of all.

Blessings,
Erin



101

WHO: All are invited!

WHAT: A chance to learn

WHEN: January, time now flexible

WHERE: UPC, of course

WHY: Be reminded or informed about "us"
and perhaps be interested in membership?
Contact Pastor Erin or church office (653-6588)
for more info or to sign up

Church Contacts

P.O. Box 32
209 E Main Street
Washington, IA, 52353
319-653-6588

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8am-noon, 1-4pm
Friday 8am-noon

Pastor Erin Kaye

pastorerinkaye@gmail.com
319-461-8765

Secretary/Treasurer

Jessica Canny
upsecretary@gmail.com

Director of Youth

Jared Long
upwashyouth@gmail.com

Kingdom Kids Preschool

Brenda Miles
kkpwash@gmail.com

CREW (Middle School Ministry)

Dec 1st: 1pm - Scavenger Hunt @ Coral Ridge Mall

Dec 15th: 3:30pm - Christmas Party @ UPChurch

CREW: Scavenger Hunt & HACAP Adopt-A-Family

On Dec 1st 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 (Senior High Ministry)

Dec 1st: 6:30pm @ UP Church

Dec 8th: 5pm - Christmas Dinner

Dec 15th: 6:30pm @ UP Church

Dec 22nd: 6:30pm @ UP Church

Dec 29th: Not Meeting - Happy New Year!

Son City (Elementary School Ministry)

Dec 1st: 8:45am - Christmas Program Practice

Dec 8th: 8:45am - Christmas Program Practice

Dec 15th: 8:45am - Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

10:00am - Christmas Program

Dec 22nd: 8:45am - Christmas Movie

Dec 29th: 8:45am - Christmas Movie

Inside Out: Christmas Dinner

On December 8th 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. This year we will be feasting at Monica's in Coralville. Each student is asked to bring 2 wrapped gifts with a combined total value of no more than \$10. Contact Jared if you have any questions.



The Christmas Program this year will be on Sunday December 15th @ 10:00am. Children nursery through high school will take part in the program and we are asking the students to be here at 8:45am so that we can practice before the service. We will be preparing for the service during the Sunday School hour on Dec. 1st & 8th as well as the 15th - attendance those Sundays will be very helpful for our young actors.



Kingdom Kids Preschool

Thankfulness has been our theme in November as we have been busy planning and preparing for our annual feast. Each child invited a special guest, and we also invited some other people that we have had fun with this year. We prepared chicken noodle vegetable soup, rolls, butter, apple slices, and pumpkin bars. We sang, danced, ate, and listed things we were thankful for. It was a wonderful celebration. As December arrives we will be discussing Christmas celebrations and learning the Christmas story as we spend JAM (Jesus And Me) Time with pastor Erin on Mondays. Hopefully some preschoolers will be brave enough to sing with the JAM Kids during the program on Dec. 15. Please make our families feel welcome as you greet them on this day. Every year as this season approaches, I ask you to please pray for our staff, children, and families. I pray for families to have peace, time to enjoy each other, enough of what they need, and to realize what this special baby means for all of us. I pray that for you as well!

Merry Christmas!



Wednesday, December 18th
5:15pm– 5:45pm
Meal provided by Jam Kids
Freewill Donations accepted

JAMKIDS
United Presbyterian Church Washington



Dec 4th: *Angels Proclaim Jesus*
Dec 11th: Music, Crafts, and Stories
Dec 18th: Making Stone Soup for Praise Cafe
Dec 18th: Praise Cafe



Stewardship Drive

STEWARDSHIP & GRATITUDE in GIVING

Stewardship is grounded in our GRATITUDE for what God has provided.

We heard testimonies about worship, growing our faith, serving others and giving generously. These are the cornerstones of our GRATITUDE for God's many blessings in our lives.

We now ask you, our church family, to make a pledge to our UP Church to SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE for what our Church does in God's name.

Our Stewardship Committee's challenge is to have those who are able, to raise their pledge by at least 10% for 2020.

Please give with GRATITUDE in your heart, as we show how we Love God and Love Others.

Stewardship Committee: Ericka Bishop, Sandy Dunlap, Julie Johnson, Steve Liebe, Joe McConnell, and Mary Saforek

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS SHARING

HACAP adopt a family. Jordan Youngman has a list of families that you can "adopt" and help give gifts for their children so that they can have a present for Christmas.

Alternative Christmas. We purchased 40 ornaments from 10,000 Villages and Krista's Sunday School class will make ornaments to sell. The ornaments will sell at the soup supper before Thanksgiving and then next 2 Sundays. Proceeds will be given to the homeless shelter in Washington.



Mitten Tree. The tree will be set-up with the "hanging of the greens" on Sunday, Dec 1st. The school children will benefit from your gifts. They are excited to get mittens or gloves, scarves, and hats. The need for gloves and mittens is greater due to children losing one of the pair and having cold hands.



Salvation Army Ringers. Sue Reed is asking for volunteers to help ring bells at Fareway on December 7 from 9 am - 5 pm. All these funds stay locally and help people in our community.

Christmas Joy offering. This offering is received to help the leaders from the Presbyterian church who assistance. The money assists retired church workers in need, the Menaul school in New Mexico- which is a faith based school for students 6-12th grade, and other projects. Please remember the joy of the Christ child this Christmas and help spread His love to others.



deliver a difference

Our church has been responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels for four weeks this fall. A noon meal is delivered to participants Monday through Friday.

If you know of anyone who is interested in this service, sign up is done at the YMCA.

Our church will be delivering again in the spring. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary Atwood. The Deacons would like to thank Kevin Caldwell, Tom and Kathy Hunt, Terry and Julie Mangold, and Ed Lins for delivering meals.



On Monday, Nov 11th we had a meeting of 2020 Saturday Kitchen Hosts. We had a 5:30-6:30 pizza gathering this year.

We had a great turnout, including several new hosts. It's always a good time of sharing between hosts. It's also a good time for us to learn how we, as a church, can make things run more smoothly for our hosts and ultimately for our guests. We're thrilled and blessed to have 26 host groups in 2020.

Thank you, UP Church Family, for always being so gracious about sharing our church facility to host our 80-100 Saturday Kitchen guests each and every Saturday all year long. (By the way, we're starting year #8 for the Saturday Kitchen!!)



Welcome Team's "GRATEFUL-NESS"

GRATEFUL to ALL who helped with our outdoor clean-up
GRATEFUL for positive responses to our greeter letters
GRATEFUL to ALL who generously provide refreshments
for Sunday Fellowship Time
GRATEFUL for Pastor Erin's ideas and support
GRATEFUL for our caring and loving church family
GRATEFUL for EACH of you!

Welcome Team: Megan Alderton, Teresa Anderson, Christy Buchholz, Ann Conklin,
Marde McConnell, Julie Murphy, and Angie Schluetter



LOST AND FOUND items aren't lost,
they've just moved!

Check NORTH coat area for missing items.
By the way, we have several pairs of glasses
in our box!

December Worship Schedule *Please Join Us...*

Sunday, December 1st - Hanging of the Greens Service

Sunday, December 8th - "Blue Christmas" *Remember our Loved Ones*

Sunday, December 15th - Youth Program and Joy Offering

Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm

Sunday, December 29th - Hymn Sing Service

Children's Sunday School watching a movie together at 8:45am



Hangings of the Greens

During the December 1st
Worship Service



As many of you know, my good wife Karen is finally home! Karen has spent three months in the ICU at the university, Washington County Hospital and Halcyon House. It has been a miracle that she is doing so well after the removal of a benign brain tumor. This would not have happened without your prayers and kind deeds. God does listen! Also thanks for all of your kindness for the food I received during her absence (and since Karen got home.) Boy, do we have a lot of great cooks in our congregation! A special thanks to Pastor Erin and her visits. Blessing to all! Gary and Karen Murphy



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



Jan-Oct represents 83% of the year.
Our income came in at 73%
Our expenses came in at 83%

DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Articles for the January
newsletter are due
Wednesday, December 18



Church Family News

Did you know...

There are probably well over 30-40 VOLUNTEERS who help out or attend meetings in the church each week, some weeks even many more, caring people! Thanks for participating in the life of our church

There were over 85 BEAUTIFUL QUILTS as part of our recent, special, "blessing of the quilts" service. Thank you, Sewing Ladies, for sharing your talents. You enable our UP Church family to "love others" through the gift giving of a quilt.

Several UP VOLUNTEERS passed things out to kids during the Washington Downtown Trick or Treat.

A lovely TULIP TREE was planted in the green space, northeast of our storage building. The site is where a beautiful, but diseased, tree was recently removed. The new tree will also provide beautiful shade; though . . . we'll have to be patient while the new tree grows!



**OUT
OF
OFFICE**

Erin will be out the office on December 11th for Leadership Washington, and the 26th-31st for vacation

Jared's last day will be Sunday, December 22nd

The office will be closed December 25th-27th in observance of Christmas

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the members of the United Presbyterian Church!

The members of the American Association of University Women thank you for allowing us to host our 2019 Washington High School National Honor Society Reception and AAUW Education Award Presentation in the church Fellowship Hall on the evening of Nov. 19th.

It was a very special evening for the fifty-six students, their parents, and our 2019 Education Award Recipient, the board and staff of the Washington County Riverboat Foundation. Fellowship Hall is just perfect for our event and the staff and members at the church couldn't have been more helpful and gracious. We so appreciate being able to use your facilities and we thank you for sharing them with us once again in 2019.



Grateful Members of the Washington Iowa Branch of AAUW



1 Linda Boston
2 Nick Shelman
3 Henry Tompkins

5 Emma Alderton
5 Jim Buitendorp
7 Lois Holland
12 Barry Johnson
13 Lisa Buitendorp
16 Kaitlin Buchholz
19 Jamie Rich

20 Sarah Robison
21 Joe McConnell
24 Dyann Graber
24 Cyrus Graber
24 Sue Reed
26 Erin Thorius
26 Colton Twinam

28 Alecia Goff
29 Dorothy Koehler-Yoder
30 Emory VanGerpen
30 Lorraine Williams
31 Jayse Thorius