



January 2020



#### Church Contacts

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#### Office Hours

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

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#### Secretary/Treasurer

Jessica Canny  
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#### Youth (Elementary/Middle School)

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#### Youth (Senior High)

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#### Organist

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#### Worship Band

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#### Kingdom Kids Preschool

Brenda Miles  
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## From the Pastor...

Friends,

What a year! We have bid goodbye to staff, welcomed new staff, worshiped together, prayed together, learned together, and played together. We have laughed and cried together. I am perhaps most proud that we have tried new things together, exploring the places God is calling us to go. I have felt a great deal of energy being here, and hope you have felt it also. In the coming year, I have some goals for us as a church. Interestingly, they all revolve around communication.

First and foremost, I hope that we continue to seek God's leadership and voice in all we do, and that we all are encouraged to deepen our relationship with the One who created, redeems, and sustains us.

Our communication with God is an important aspect of our Christian journey. We deepen this communication both through private devotional time and communal time together, such as in worship and Bible study, or Sunday School. Certainly our church has a lot to offer in the realm of group gatherings, and I encourage you to be aware of special events happening in the coming year, such as the 'Presbyterian 101' class that has just begun, a Bible Journaling class during Lent, and others.

Second, an area of communication I hope that we can pursue together is in sharing among ourselves the work we are doing for the kingdom of God as a congregation.

There are so many different modes of communication in our current time - and so much information to be shared - that we are not always on the same page. We will work harder in the office to keep everyone informed, and I hope that you will make every effort to be aware of church communications and to share information you know with others. One thing we will be doing in February to help with communication and planning is to have a meeting of all committees to share our plans for ministry in the next 6 months. This will allow more people to be aware of coming events, and especially for us to focus on how plans and activities are communicated to others.

A final area of communication I hope to encourage for all of us is how we communicate to those outside our building who we are and why we do what we do. This congregation is a wonderful example of the kingdom of God, a light on a hill, and I hope to find ways to help us all communicate that information with people who might need to learn more about the love of Jesus Christ and about us.

I look forward to the coming year!

Blessings, Erin



### January Highlights

1st Office Closed-Happy New Year!  
2nd Mobile Food Pantry  
5th Canny Reception  
5th, 12th, 19th Presby 101 Class  
8th PW Meeting  
8th Welcome Meeting

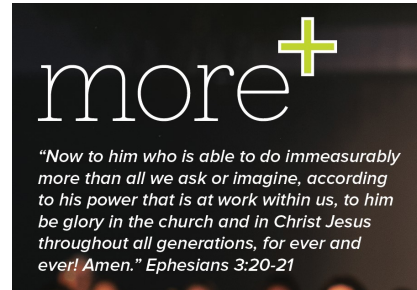
8th Worship Meeting  
13th Finance Meeting  
13th Deacons Meeting  
13th Mission Meeting  
15th Session Meeting  
15th Praise Café  
26th Annual Meeting

## CREW (Middle School Ministry)

Jan 5th: 3:30pm @ UPChurch

Jan 19th: 3:30pm @ UPChurch

Jan 31- Feb 2nd: Quake



## CREW: Trip to Quake in Des Moines Jan 31 - Feb 2

CREW will be going to Quake Friday - Sunday. We will meet at the church immediately after school on Friday and head out. The theme for Quake this year is "More+", which is inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21 ("now to him who is able to do immeasurably more..."). 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 Erin T. know as soon as you can if you want to go.

## Inside Out (Senior High Ministry)

Sundays in January at 6:30pm

## Son City (Elementary School Ministry)

Sundays in January at 8:45am.

We're starting a new unit on Jan 5th: *Jesus is Baptized*



## Kingdom Kids Preschool

The Kingdom Kids have finished up our Christmas celebrations and are looking forward to the New Year.



Wednesday, January 15th

5:15pm– 5:45pm

Meal will be provided

Freewill Donations accepted



Wednesdays in January on the 8th, 15th,  
22nd, and the 29th.





**Presby 101:**  
**Class meeting in the library**

**Learn (or relearn!) about the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

**Sundays - January 5, 12, 19 from 11:30-12:30**

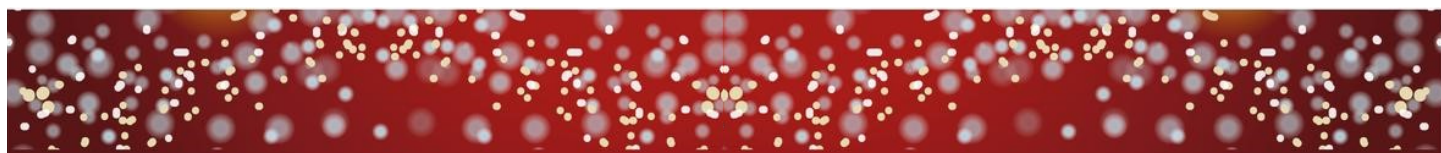
**Childcare provided**

A great chance to learn, meet people, and to explore becoming a member

### Personnel updates



The personnel committee announced filling 4 part time positions. They are as follows: Mary Jo Koehler as the Worship Band Leader; Erin Thorius as the Director of Children's and Junior High Ministry; Jake Thorius and Krista Gaal sharing the position of Senior High Ministry. Please welcome these individuals in their new rolls. We also continue to search for a Secretary/Treasurer and Custodian to replace Jessica Canny and Cory Canny, who will be missed. We thank them for their dedicated service.



## Stewardship Drive

### STEWARDSHIP & GRATITUDE in GIVING GOOD NEWS

The theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign was GRATITUDE for God's many blessings. We were reminded about how our GRATITUDE for what God has provided should be reflected by our financial giving to our church, as well as by the giving of our time and talents.

We asked you to pledge to our UP Church to SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE for what our Church does in God's name. We challenged ourselves and you, our church family friends, to raise our pledges by 10%, if able. We're very pleased to report over 90% of us were able to do so. We had a very delicious and well-attended Celebration Spaghetti Meal on December 1 to share the good news that our campaign was going well.

As we wrap up our 2019 Stewardship Campaign, we on the Stewardship Committee are very pleased to report that we will reach our budgeted goal of \$190,000!

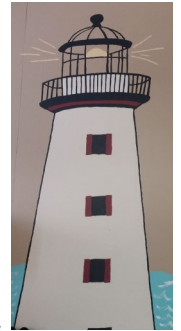
We are also grateful as a committee that you, our church family, have responded in such a positive way. Your gifts will allow our church to carry out our mission to Love God and Love Others in so many ways in 2020.

As chairperson, I am immensely grateful for a creative and dedicated committee: Ericka Bishop, Sandy Dunlap, Julie Johnson, Steve Liebe, and Mary Saforek.

By Joe McConnell

Thank you to everyone who purchased ornaments. The money raised went to help the Lighthouse (homeless shelter in Washington). Thank you also to those who brought mittens, hats, and scarves to help the children in our community who don't have anything to keep them warm. Also thank you to those who rang bells at Fareway. The money that we helped raise goes to the Ministerial Society to assist those in need.

The Mission Committee met with Darren Brown who runs the homeless shelter (now called the Lighthouse) here in Washington. Darren has a passion for helping spread God's love to those who are homeless. They have 20 beds but have housed many more than that. They started thinking they needed beds for homeless men but immediately had to figure out where to house families that were homeless. Darren shows these people God's love along with helping them figure out what they need to do to become self-sufficient. He is working on a plan to open up a second hand store to help with the operating costs for the shelter. Our church used some of the money given as the mission part of the sanctuary project to help Darren in his mission to spread God's love.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR BOARD OF DEACONS!

Kathy Hunt, Kathy Knutson, Terry Mangold, Sarah Robison, Marde McConnell, Mary Atwood, Gabby Anderson

As we quickly approach a new year, 2020, your 2019 Board of Deacons wishes to extend our thanks to each of you who helped us this past year to share the love and justice of our Lord Jesus by extending a hand to all of God's children. Whether you helped us by visiting the home bound, assisted with communion services at the health centers,

said prayers for those requesting prayers on the church email prayer chain, sent a note of love or signed a "Reach Out & Touch" poster, delivered an Easter flower, provided a ride to a church family member to worship or appointments, delivered a hot meal with a smile for the "Meals on Wheels" program, or helped at or baked cookies for our evening at Camp Reece, we are so thankful for your willingness to share yourself with others, even when it might be inconvenient! As we begin to make plans for the New Year, we pray that you also will align your New Year's resolutions with continuing to aid in seeing that love and justice is extended to all! We all are beloved children of God!



We know that the Saturday Kitchen will have a great 2020, our 8<sup>th</sup> year of coordinating and hosting this community outreach event. We have 26 eager host groups and 80-100 guests each week, with our attendance numbers growing.

For your information, we UP'ers are hosting the Saturday Kitchen seven times in 2020:

church family four times, Pathfinders Sunday School class two times and our youth, with a Fareway donation of food, one time.

We thank you, church family, for reaching out to those in need of food and fellowship by sharing our church facility but more importantly by sharing of "yourselves" in this important ministry of reaching out to others. Feel free to contact us if you want more information or are willing to help out.

Joe and Marde McConnell





THANK  
YOU!

## Welcome Team Thanks You!

As the year ends our Welcome Team would like to thank everyone in our church family for your support this past year.

We've asked for help as greeters, refreshment providers, reception helpers, survey completers and outdoor clean-up workers, etc. We've individually asked many of you to help us in other ways, too and we've never been turned down!

We will continue to seek ways to have our church home look and feel even more friendly and inviting and for us as individuals to reach out.

Thanks always for your continued flexibility and support! Prepare yourselves, as we have even more exciting ideas for 2020 – we know you'll be there “with us.”

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



## FAREWELL TO THE CANNY FAMILY: THANK YOU RECEPTION AND BABY SHOWER SUNDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

“Our Jess and Cory” and their dear Ren are leaving us. Their decision to move back to Ottumwa wasn't an easy one but one in the best interest of their family – new job for Cory and closer to Jess' family, especially with baby #2's imminent arrival.

As a way to thank Jess, Cory, and Ren for brightening our lives, there will be a Welcome Team coordinated Thank You Reception/Baby Shower on Sun., Jan. 5 after worship.  
For more information contact: Mary Atwood, Cindy McCall, or Marde McConnell

On behalf of my family, I just want to say, “Thank You”. I'm not sure we'll ever be able to fully express the gratitude and appreciation we have for this church family. You have supported us and wrapped us in love and prayers during our darkest times-for that we will always be grateful. Our time here at the church will not be forgotten and the memories and bonds made will be cherished always. Thank you, the Canny family.



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

# Sunday, January 26th



Jan-Nov represents 92% of the year.  
Our income came in at 84%  
Our expenses came in at 91%



Articles for the February  
newsletter are due  
Wednesday, January 19



## Church Family News

Did you know...

SHANE ANDERSON recently took 2 vacation days, stood on the very top of our tallest ladder (yikes), and did all the ceiling electrical work to brighten up Fellowship Hall and the main floor hallways. His able assistants on the ground were Jim Cuddeback and Tim Trotman. The new LED lights are simply fabulous! We're VERY grateful for you sharing your time and talents, Shane – and for your help too, Jim and Tim.

KATHY KNUTSON made over 25 adorable book bags for kids in foster care. This need became known to us by CARRIE SEPTER, who works with foster care families. Thank you, Kathy, the bags were so colorful and cute and a labor of love.

Carrie shares that the children who receive the bags will be thrilled.

KATIE LUJAN and OTHERS take photos at church events and post them on the church website. We're grateful they're willing to do this to help others know about all the good things going on with the kids and adults at UPC.

KEN WULF and OTHERS try to stay on top of sweeping the berries off our front walkway. We know they're a nuisance this time of year and we appreciate the efforts of Ken and others in our church family for working to keep the walkway clean. Feel free to help, too – please load up a broom from home or take one from the kitchen broom closet and take a few minutes and to sweep?!

### MOVIE NIGHT - ENJOYED BY MANY!



Movie night was a huge success, once again. *The Star* was a sweet movie and very appropriate for this time of year. Not only was the movie sweet but so were the kids in their jammies. They all lined in their sleeping bags at the front of the sanctuary or curled up in their blankets in the front pews eating treats with their friends.

A HUGE THANKS to the gals who helped with this very kid and adult, fun-filled evening: Heather Anderson, April Cuddeback, Katie Lujan, Diana Rich, Erin Thorius, and Pastor Erin.



1 Grace Buckingham  
1 Kathy Hunt  
1 Connie Schuster  
1 Addy Sents  
4 Aaron Rich

5 Kyle Anderson  
5 Esther Bordwell  
6 Gabriela Anderson  
6 Richard Schenk  
7 Mary Oviatt  
9 Linden Brinning  
10 Roy Carter  
10 Clem Griffith  
13 Sarah Hall

13 Maxine Martin  
13 Noah Rich  
13 Tracy Strabala  
15 Lou Slight  
16 Vivian Griffith  
16 Gary Herlein  
17 Larry Krotz  
17 Brennen Westphal  
19 Randy Fehr

19 Jake Thorius  
22 Vernie Lowry  
22 Ted Stewart  
23 Sarah Miles  
24 Kaylin Long.  
25 Julie Mangold



# Want to improve your communication with God in 2020?

Sundays- 8:45am Sunday School classes (youth, children, and 4 adult classes)  
3:30 1st and 3rd Sundays “Crew” (middle school youth)  
6:30pm weekly “Inside Out” (senior high youth)

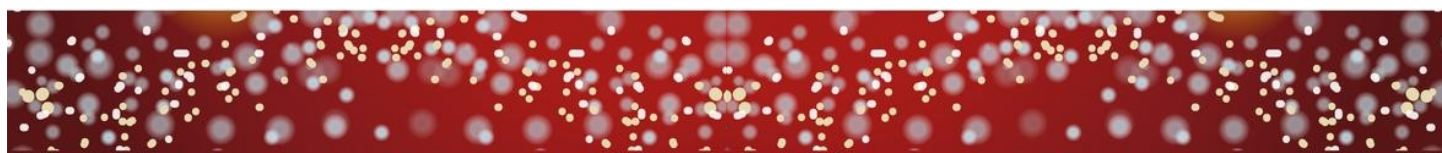
Fridays- 6am Men’s Bible Study

“These Days” Devotional Books in the church office or tables outside the Sanctuary

Online resources:

d365.org

PCUSA Daily Prayer App



## Welcome our new staff!

INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM!



Welcome to Angie and  
David Schluetter,  
our new custodians!



Welcome to Jake and  
Erin Thorius!  
Erin- Elementary/  
Middle School Youth  
Jake- Senior High  
Youth



Welcome to Krista Gaal  
-working with our  
Senior High Youth!



Thanks for staying and  
leading our Worship  
Band, Mary Jo!