



May 2020

He gives power to the
faint, and to him who has no
might he increases strength.

Isaiah 40:29

Connecting for Worship on Sunday

Our website: <http://www.upcwash.org/>

Here are some ways to connect with our livestream, if the website isn't working:

Facebook - Washington United Presbyterian Church

Smart TV - download the Boxcast app and look for UPCWash - you can watch the stream from your TV this way!

Computer- Use the following link: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/a0zvuqohexe93npq2xjr>
to go directly to our boxcast page

If you do not have the technology to connect in these ways, or you're having problems using the technology you have, and you'd like help, please call the church office at 319-653-6588.

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

Krystle Moore
upsecretary@gmail.com

Youth (Elementary/Middle School)

Erin Thorius
upwashyouth@gmail.com

Youth (Senior High)

Jake Thorius/Krista Gaal
jmthorius@yahoo.com
kgaal1965@gmail.com

Organist

Virginia Bordwell
Virginia@washingtontitle.org

Worship Band

Mary Jo Koehler
aceofspace99@gmail.com

Kingdom Kids Preschool

Brenda Miles
kkpwash@gmail.com



From the Pastor...

Friends,

Although I am not getting out much, I am tired. Tired of being physically distant from people I would like to be with. Tired of uncertainty. Tired of political bickering as lives are lost. Tired of sadness. Tired of cancellations. Tired of fear. Tired of this new normal. As I contemplated this, a section of the Bible sprang to mind. It comes from the 40th chapter of Isaiah.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

God has been in control, is in control, and will be in control. God will provide what we all need to make it through this time. It will not be easy. We will all grow tired. As I saw mentioned somewhere, this is a marathon, not a sprint. But God is here for the long haul. Do not be discouraged and do not be afraid. Together, with God, we can do this.

Blessings,
Pastor Erin

If you'd like to make an online donation to the ministry of United Presbyterian Church, go to our webpage (upcwash.org)

Checks may be sent to:
United Presbyterian Church
PO Box 32
Washington, Iowa 52353

Offering
Giving Back
To God

May Highlights

7th Mobile Food Pantry
10th Mother's Day

20th Session Meeting
25th Memorial Day

SENIORS: Check your mailbox for Scholarship info to fill out and return to Jake, at the church, by Friday, May 15th.

Mission Trip Info:

After much discussion, thought and prayer, we unfortunately are having to make the decision to cancel our Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado that was scheduled for June 5-14. There are still too many unknowns at this time. Colorado and the states we travel through to get there are at different stages in this COVID-19 Pandemic than we are in Iowa. It's hard telling what will be open/available as we travel and when we get to our destinations. We have been in contact with Habitat and La Puente in Alamosa and they feel it's best to cancel at this time, as well. The planning team has met via Zoom with Krista and Jake to discuss this and they will continue to meet in hopes that a few days or a long weekend can be scheduled this summer to do some sort of work somewhere! We want to send the seniors off with a positive mission experience so stay tuned!

Crew (Middle School Ministry) and Inside Out (Senior High Ministry)

Both groups attempted a Zoom meeting with their leaders with some success! It was wonderful to see each other, catch up on our new 'normals', and laugh! We plan to continue to connect virtually when we can while we are away from each other. We will send the Zoom meeting links via email to parents of CREW kids and to the High School kids themselves (with a text reminder). If there is anything you need during this time, let Erin, Jake or Krista know and we will see what we can do to help.

Son City (Elementary School Ministry)

Our last 2 units of the school year ("Jesus Lives!" and "Peter & John") were going to be spectacular! But we are sad to have missed them. We appreciate the willingness of Jane Cuddeback, Marde McConnell, Julie Zahs, Carrie Septer, and Anne & Jordan Youngman to volunteer their time to lead those units had we been together. We will call on them in the future!

In the meantime, here are some ideas of resources available:

- **YouTube:** I really enjoy the videos by "Saddleback Kids", "PursueGOD KIDS", and "Crossroads Kids' Club". They are quick videos on just about every story in the Bible!
- **Apps:** Download "Bible App for Kids: Interactive Audio & Stories" by Life.Church and "Superbook Kids Bible" by CBN for some fun for kids.
- **Library:** Don't forget that our very own church library has LOTS of DVDs and books available for check out! The church is open from 9-noon on Mondays for the time being. Contact Erin Thorius if you need some help!

Kingdom Kids Preschool

We have begun to take registrations for next Fall. We are planning to hold class M-Th, 8:15-11:15. Four years old by Sept 15 = Free (State funded tuition), three year olds = \$100/month. Call Brenda Miles for more information. 319-461-4327



Confirmation

The meeting with Session that was to happen April 15th and the original Confirmation Sunday date of April 26th were both postponed until we can gather together again face to face. We will keep you posted when we know more!



We are bummed that our last several meetings were cancelled but we may plan for a 'last hurrah' sort of gathering this summer sometime once we can gather together again. Stay tuned! *Also, see the resources mentioned in the Son City section of this newsletter!



Spring Clean-Up

Postponed!

Will update when we are able to
Sponsored by the Welcome Team



Opportunity

Reaching out to our church family. Our son Josh has recently been approved for respite care. This will be time for him to spend one on one with a person to do things he enjoys in the community, Such as attending community events, going to the movies, playing pool, attending sporting events, going to restaurants, etc. The hours are required to be when at least one parent is at home. Times would be all evenings, weekends, and daytime on Thursdays. This is a paid position, year round and 2-10 hours a week. If you or someone you know would be interested please contact Terry or Heather Anderson at 319-458-0923



Easter Flowers

When we celebrate Easter, the front of the sanctuary will once again be beautiful with colorful flowers and plants. Thank you to the many of you who donated flowers and plants in honor or in memory of your loved ones.

After worship these blooming flowers and plants will be given to church family members who are no longer able to worship with us; as we reach out in caring and love.

It has been a difficult time for everyone with this pandemic. At this time we would like you to remember especially our friends in the Lighthouse Center which is the homeless shelter in Washington. They are continuing to need help with food and helping their clients with health care needs. Most of all they need our help and support and prayers for them. You can follow them on Facebook for their most current needs.



Relay for Life Update

We are sorry to inform you that the June 27th Washington County Relay for Life has been postponed because of Covid 19. The decision was made by the American Cancer Society that there will be no events in May or June. We will keep you informed about our local event as information becomes available.

As always, Team UP and Friends is grateful for your commitment to fight against cancer, to support cancer patients, and to celebrate more birthdays for all!

Co-chairs Ann Conklin (653-1898) and Marde McConnell (653-3884)

YOUR BOARD OF DEACONS!

Kathy Knutson, Terry Mangold, Sarah Robison, Marde McConnell, Mary Atwood, Larry Bartlett, Sydney Cuddeback

Let your Board of Deacons be of assistance to you during this unusual time that we find ourselves in! This past month, your deacons have attempted to make contact with all those in our church family that are in the “high risk” category for the CONVID-19 virus. We found that we have around 150+ folks that fall into this age bracket. We tried to contact each with a phone call, email, or personal contact. We want to assist you in whatever way might be helpful to you, whether it is to run an errand, a cheery voice on the other end of the phone, etc. Along with deacons (Kathy Knutson, Terry Mangold, Larry Bartlett, Marde McConnell, Sarah Robison, Sydney Cuddeback, Mary Atwood), we are grateful for the help of 10 volunteers from the congregation (Randy Fehr, Kitch Shatzer, Gary Murphy, Carrie Septer, Karen Dillon, Jim Lester, Mary Temple, Ron Dillon, Bert Turner, Karla Wright Maxwell). Feel free to contact any of these folks if we can help you stay safe and healthy. Blessings to each of you!

Our Friends at Home–

Send a card, say a prayer, or connect in some way

Adele Reese
2436 280th St
Washington

Marie See
727 10th Ave
Washington

Lou Slight
1201 E Washington St
Washington



Cards are
available at the
Welcome
Table in
Fellowship Hall



I would like to thank all of the sewing ladies that helped to make masks for myself and my fellow co-workers. They are greatly appreciated! When I started to hand them out word spread through the hospital fast that my floor had some that were donated. Several nurses and techs asked if they could take some for themselves. They really liked the design. Especially the fact that the elastic doesn't go behind our ears.

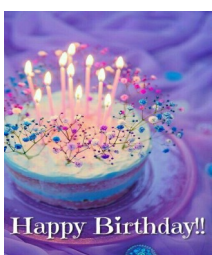
Thank you,
Travis Moore



- Session has decided that we will continue to meet virtually for worship for the month of May.
- No in person meetings for the month of May.
- Session will have decisions made regarding scheduling beyond May 31st by May 15th.
- Session has decided to close the office except for Mondays from 9-12.
- The phones will be forwarded, so if you need to contact Krystle during regular office hours she will be available.
- If you have business, please come by the church office on Mondays or call Krystle for other options.

Copy Machine

The session has decided to replace our copy machine with a new one. Our old copy machine is available for someone in our church family if they would like to have it. It works well, and would be great for a small business. If by mid May no one from the church family wants the machine, we plan to reach out to local non-profit groups to see if anyone would like the machine.



Sonny Phipps will be turning 80 years old on May 14th.
It would be appreciated if our church family would send him cards!
Cards can be sent to: Sonny Phipps
1116 S 3rd Ave
Washington, IA 52353

UPLift

We are sad to have missed our past 2 opportunities to meet and will also miss one in May. Stay tuned this summer as we find a date (or 2 or 3!) to gather and have some fun!



Articles for the June
newsletter are due
Wednesday, May 20th



Church Family News

Did you know...

Our Son City kids made colorful Easter/Thinking of You cards for the Brownlee/Garrett residents at the UP Home. We hear they were real "day brighteners."

Snowbirds Lyle and Ruth Ann Stacy share their talents and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity while in Florida for the winter.

Several of our church families decorated church windows with hearts in support of our community and also shared our faith, giving hope and peace.

Dick Hendrickson continues to walk through the church each Monday morning. Lots of bad things can still happen like roof leaks, broken toilets and electrical issues, even when we're not there! Thanks, Dick.

So many from our church family are reaching out in care to others in this difficult time. Cards are being sent; phone calls, emails, and texts are being made; groceries and home-made goodies are being delivered; as well as other acts of caring and kindness are happening. We truly are a family showing love for others during these difficult times of "distancing".

Saturday Kitchen Update

Wow! Lots to report on the Saturday Kitchen since last month. As the coronavirus became more of a concern, it was apparent we needed to change things up, for the safety of our guests and the hosts. As you probably know, with heavy hearts we ended up having to temporarily close the Saturday Kitchen - for the safety of our guests and the hosts.

The first week of "change" we insisted all guests wash their hands upon coming into the church and at 11:30 take-out containers were an option. The following three weeks were take-out containers only beginning with the Pork Producers, as first-time hosts. They grilled lots of pork burgers as there were about 170 take-out meals handed out! That was quite an initiation into being Saturday Kitchen hosts. The Pork Producers were enthusiastic about serving others and were unflappable as more burgers were put on their grill!

The following two weeks were also take-out containers with the Washington Education Association hosts enlisting help from JP's 207 and the second week HACAP had Café Dodici make delicious sandwiches as part of their meal. Both weeks about 200 meals were handed out!

You may wonder why there were so many more meals than our usual dine-in Saturday Kitchen, where we plan for 100-125 and usually serve 80-100? Well, several service providers contacted us and came and took nearly half of the 200 take-outs to deliver to some of their clients. It gave the clients a free meal and offered the support person another opportunity to check in on their clients in these isolating times.

It was a VERY DIFFICULT DECISION to have to temporarily discontinue the Saturday Kitchen. However, in talking with our friends at Public Health, it became apparent that was our only option. As the Governor requested everyone STAY HOME, we felt the Saturday Kitchen was encouraging people to leave home and not practice physical distancing, guests and hosts alike - even with hosts wearing masks and gloves in their preparation.

The Saturday Kitchen will be back! We'll let you know and we'll be getting the word out every way we can. We'll be working with Public Health and re-open whenever we're told it's safe to do so. We, the UP Church family, will be the first hosts "back"! We've been told to anticipate our return to be take-out containers again, however, time will tell.

This is by far the longest Saturday Kitchen update we've ever written to you, our church family! However, we always want you to be informed. We know you'll be "on board" and supportive, as always, when we are the first hosts for the "returning" Saturday AND as when we once again provide "a home" for the Saturday Kitchen for our friends in Washington to enjoy a free meal and a time for fellowship.

God has blessed us with the opportunity for service through the Saturday Kitchen, as we Love God and Love Others.

HOPEFULLY WE'LL BE BACK SOON!

Joe and Marde McConnell,
Coordinators



4 Mary Lou Saforek
4 Dave Schluetter
6 Cathy Kleese
6 Colin Rich
10 Dayton Schluetter
11 Matt Schiebel
13 Jane Cuddeback
13 Bill Pim
14 Sonny Phipps

15 Andy McCall
19 Morgan Meyer
23 Keaton Murphy
25 Harvey Holden
25 Paulette Twinam
26 Dana Conklin
27 Regan Loula
29 Jane Fehr

