



June 2021



Worship in the Park

Central Park

Sunday June 27th

10am

**Bring a lawn chair or blanket
and some lunch to enjoy after
worship**

**The service will also be
live-streamed**

Church Contacts

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

Office Hours

Mon, Wed, and Fridays
8am-12pm Office open
**Phone will be answered during
the following hours:**
Monday– Friday 8-12am
Monday– Thursday 1-4pm

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



From the Pastor...

Friends,

What is our purpose as a community of faith? At our May Session meeting I asked the session if they could name our vision. Blank looks on faces occurred until one enterprising member pulled up the church webpage on their laptop and read it out to us. In case you'd have the same blank look, here it is:

Our Vision: Transforming lives by sharing our experience of God's love and acceptance.

Our Values: Welcoming. Loving. Nurturing. Serving. Generosity.

Our Mission: Love God. Love Others.

As a congregation, you worked hard on naming these things. Under the leadership of Interim Pastors Bill Warhover and Karen Wu, you prayed and listened and talked and struggled, until you came to the words we now claim as our purpose – our vision, our values, and our mission. This is who we are as a congregation, or at least who we desire to become if we are not there yet. That's all well and good, but what does it MEAN? How do we put these words, so carefully and thoughtfully produced, into action? What does this look like in our worship, our study, our service, our giving, and our sharing of the Gospel?

Over the next month, your session will be considering these questions, and we will meet on June 30th to discuss how we might better focus on our purpose as a church. I encourage you to pray for your session - these leaders whom you have called and whom God has called - that they will listen to God and be gifted with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love as they seek to lead this faith community.

Blessings,

Pastor Erin

Pastor Erin will be on vacation and planning leave June 12-25. Marian Hart will be leading worship on June 13th and the Senior High Mission Trip group will be sharing about their experience during worship on June 20th.



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



June Highlights

3rd Mobile Food Pantry
6th Communion
9th PW Circle
9th Welcome Meeting
9th Worship Meeting

15th Finance
20th Father's Day
21st Sewing Day
30th Session

Church Family News

Our sewing ladies gave a beautiful and masculine-looking quilt to a stranger in Iowa City – Loving Others. This person “in need” is a friend of one of our former members. Thanks for reaching out in love and care, Gals.

Shane Anderson graciously helped with some electrical issues around the church, such as replacing a bad outlet in the nursery and improving the lighting in the basement, Christmas, and storage area, to name just a couple of projects! We appreciate you, Shane.

Payton and Fei Fei Anderson participate in gymnastics in Iowa City and have had much success, way to go girls!

WHS boys' soccer team had a good year. “Our” Cole Anderson is their #1 goalie and he “saved” the win many times this season. Way to go to you, too, Cole!

We have had many of “our kids” involved in end-of-the-year WMS activities. Emma Kaye helped with lighting for the WMS play and Isabella Lujan had a part, Josh Anderson helped with sound for the WMS Talent Show and several other of “our kids” participated in that fun evening.

We hugely congratulate all those who participated in the State Track Meet in Des Moines especially Abigail Kleese, Roy Carter, and Cameron Vongpanya



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

Other ways to connect 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/channelaozvuoqohexe93npq2xjr> for 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.



1 Brennan Murphy
1 Meredith Raber

2 Fran Langenberg
3 Jean Wells
4 Kylie Moore
5 Garth Rustan
5 Tricia Whisler
6 Joleen Krotz
7 Drake Schluetter
7 Dawson Schluetter
8 Sydney Cuddeback
9 Kay Hall

10 Kathy Knutson
12 Jessie Buchholz
12 Kaitlyn Mitchell
12 Alexa Mitchell
13 Lynn Loula
15 Ron Kaufman
15 Dylann Schluetter
19 June Asper
19 Olivia Lujan
19 Sophia Lujan

21 Kevin Caldwell
21 Janet Kaufman
22 Etta Wakeland
24 Diana Henry
25 Janice Flory
25 Joyce Letts
26 Patricia Bagley
27 Callie Schiebel
27 Austin Twinam
27 Janice Twinam

Son City (K-5th Grade)

What a great school year! We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be together downstairs and learn about God! A HUGE THANKS to Tracy Strabala for being downstairs each Sunday as a great leader for our kiddos, Julie Zahs for using her gifts of theater and creativity to enhance their experience with God, and several others who took a Sunday or 2 and helped out! We couldn't have done it without you all! Emma Alderton is our lone fifth grader moving on up to middle school next year! This summer will be a chance for us to prepare for next fall. If you would like to help out downstairs or have ideas on what you'd like to see happen in Son City, please share with us!

CREW (Middle School Ministry)

We are so grateful for the chance to meet Sunday afternoons this school year. We had a variety of friends join us each Sunday as we spent some time learning about how God is at work in our lives and a few games, food, and laughter thrown in! A big thank you to Brad Alderton for helping out! We have 4 eighth graders moving on up to high school next year... Tyler Alderton, Halle Cuddeback, Isabella Lujan, and Luke Schiebel. We wish them the best as they move on to the next level!

SUMMER CREW: Anyone who finished 5th grade through 8th grade this school year is welcome to join us! We are still working on specific locations for service in the morning and some fun in the afternoon. Look for a flocknote the week before each date so you can get signed up to go! Bring your friends! Questions? Email upwashyouth@gmail.com or call/text Erin at 319-541-2147.

Mark these dates on your calendar...

Friday, June 11th: + day through lunch...something in town

Friday, July 16th: + day or full day? We will see what we can do!

Sunday, August 8th: Car Wash, depending on numbers

Inside Out (Senior High Ministry)

Congrats to our seniors! You did it! We are so proud! The youth and adults head out on their mission trip to Evergreen, Colorado on Friday, June 4th bright and early! They will be working with Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they work, play, and see God in all they do for 10 days. They'll return on Sunday, June 13th. On Sunday, June 20th, they'll tell us all about their trip at the 10am service. Join us!





WE CONGRATULATE YOU!

Angie and Dawson Schluetter created this attractive bulletin board recognizing “our” 2021 WHS seniors: Roy Carter, Sydney Cuddeback, Sophia Kleese, Keaton Murphy and Jack Strabala. We wish them each much success and God’s blessing and guidance as they move forward in their life journey. May they continue to Love God and Love Others and to feel our love and caring, too.



Stephanie Quackenbush, daughter of Rick and Virginia Bordwell, has been released from the On With Life Rehabilitation Center and has returned home to continue recuperating from her brain injury last November.

If you would like to send a card of support to her, her address is :
2033 Forest Dr SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

It would be helpful to mention that you’re from the church, or how you’re connected to her– her memory is sometimes fuzzy.

Following our wonderfully-attended, April outdoor church clean-up, we had even more improvements take place after the event. Many thanks to Nick Shelman, Phil and Darin Rich and Brad Alderton.

NICK SHELMAN brought a “piece of equipment from the farm” and pulled out all the dead evergreen bushes on the west side of the church, beneath the stained glass windows. The bushes received a necessary “haircut” last fall and we knew they might not recover. Well, they didn’t! We’re grateful to Nick for promptly removing the dead bushes and leveling the site.

*Thank
you*

Thanks to two other farmers/church family members for sharing themselves and “their equipment.” Darin Rich and dad, Phil, saw that new mulch was added to our playground area. Phil picked up mulch in Crawfordsville and drove to Washington with a huge dump truck full of much-needed mulch. Thanks, fellas, for your prompt attention to this matter.

Lastly, when Session members had committed to spreading the mulch, Brad Alderton single-handedly did the job!! What an amazing gift to have Brad take care of that project in short order – we appreciate you, Brad. There are other outdoor projects planned for the area but we’re excited to have our little ones be able to once again play and enjoy our playground.

Teresa Anderson and Marde McConnell of the Welcome Team



An update from Session,

This past session meeting, after much prayer, discussion, and consideration of current guidelines and case numbers, the Session voted that effective June 1 masks are not required to be worn inside the church building. We are thankful that many people in our congregation have been vaccinated and that case numbers in Washington County have remained low. And while masks are not required, we do encourage anyone who is vulnerable or wishes to wear a mask to do so. For the time being, we will continue to leave the sanctuary pews marked for physical distancing and we encourage you to take appropriate steps if you are experiencing symptoms of illness or are vulnerable. We would also encourage you to maintain physical distance from others as possible. While county case numbers are low and vaccines do appear effective, we are still wise to be cautious and to protect ourselves and those around us.

Due to the fact that children under 12 are still not eligible for vaccination, we request that adults working closely with this age group wear a mask – for example our nursery volunteers this summer. We will reconsider these guidelines as needed, and plan to consider them specifically at our August session meeting as we prepare for a new school year.

We appreciate your constant prayers and support as we walk through this time together.

The Session of United Presbyterian Church

Dear UP Church family and friends,

In January, the session shared the good news that our church and the UP Home were joint beneficiaries of the Dorothy Pringle Estate. The estate consisted of two farms, one in Keokuk County and one in Washington County. We inherited a 2/3rds interest and the UP Home a 1/3rd interest in both farms.

Over the past few months, the Session appointed a team to gather information about what our options were in regard to the disposition of the estate. At this point, we have discerned that there are two possibilities to choose between - either keeping one farm and selling the other (with the sale proceeds being split between ourselves and the UP Home to fulfill the UP Home's desire to liquidate their part of the estate and us maintaining ownership of the remaining land) or selling both farms and splitting the proceeds as the estate details. We plan to spend the coming month in prayer about these choices, and to make a decision at our next meeting, on June 30th.

We ask that you would join us in praying for clarity in which is the best path forward for our church. Thankfully, there are no bad choices here - either option is a good one.

Once a decision is made, we will begin considering how the proceeds will be best used in our mission and ministry, as we seek to love God and love others.

Blessings,
The Session



**April represents 33% of the year. Our income came in at 34.67%
Our expenses came in at 28.64%**



**Articles for the July/August newsletter are due
Wednesday, June 16th**



Greetings to the patrons of the UPC Library,

Let it never be said that people of this church are not generous. The abundance of sharing makes me feel very blessed indeed. I must say the donated items that have been given are wonderful additions to the collection. However, let's hold back on donated books, for now, until I get caught up, if you would please. Thanks to all who browse, check out, or simply appreciate the library. It is my pleasure to work there. If there is any question, please contact me at uplibrarian@gmail.com

Respectfully,
Laurie Wittmayer-O'Neill

An Update from your Board of Deacons

Your Board of Deacons would like to be of assistance to you! We want to assist you in whatever way might be helpful to you,--- whether it is to run an errand, pray with you, pick up some groceries, or a visit over the telephone, etc. Give Deacon Larry Bartlett a call (cell 319-591-1528 or home 319-653-6931) or email at Bartzoman@gmail.com and he will be glad to make the arrangements for transportation. Along with Larry the other deacons are Kathy Knutson, Terry Mangold, Sarah Robison, Rod Letts, Betty Beenblossom, and Grace Schiebel. Feel free to contact any of these folks if we can help you stay safe and healthy. May the Peace of Christ be with each of you!

MUSIC OPPORTUNITY



The past Sunday's Emma Alderton has joined in singing with the worship band. They're so pleased to have her!

If you're at all interested in giving it a try, feel free to contact Mary Jo at aceofspace99@gmail.com. She'd love to hear from you!!

SATURDAY KITCHEN UPDATE

The current plan is that we will NOT re-open the Saturday Kitchen until our guests can safely have indoor dining. RenElla Crawford of HACAP has not seen a big uptick in people needing food, so that is reassuring. We will be listening to our local Public Health officials and are hopeful this fall to re-open the Saturday Kitchen.

Joe and Marde McConnell, Coordinators



2021 Washington County Relay for Life

October 2, 2021

New Cattle barn at Washington County Fair grounds (plenty of close parking)

The time is yet to be determined

If you have questions please call Ann Conklin at 319-653-1898

If you would like to be part of our team, Team UP and Friends, or you would like a team shirt, or would need a survivor shirt please contact Ann.

