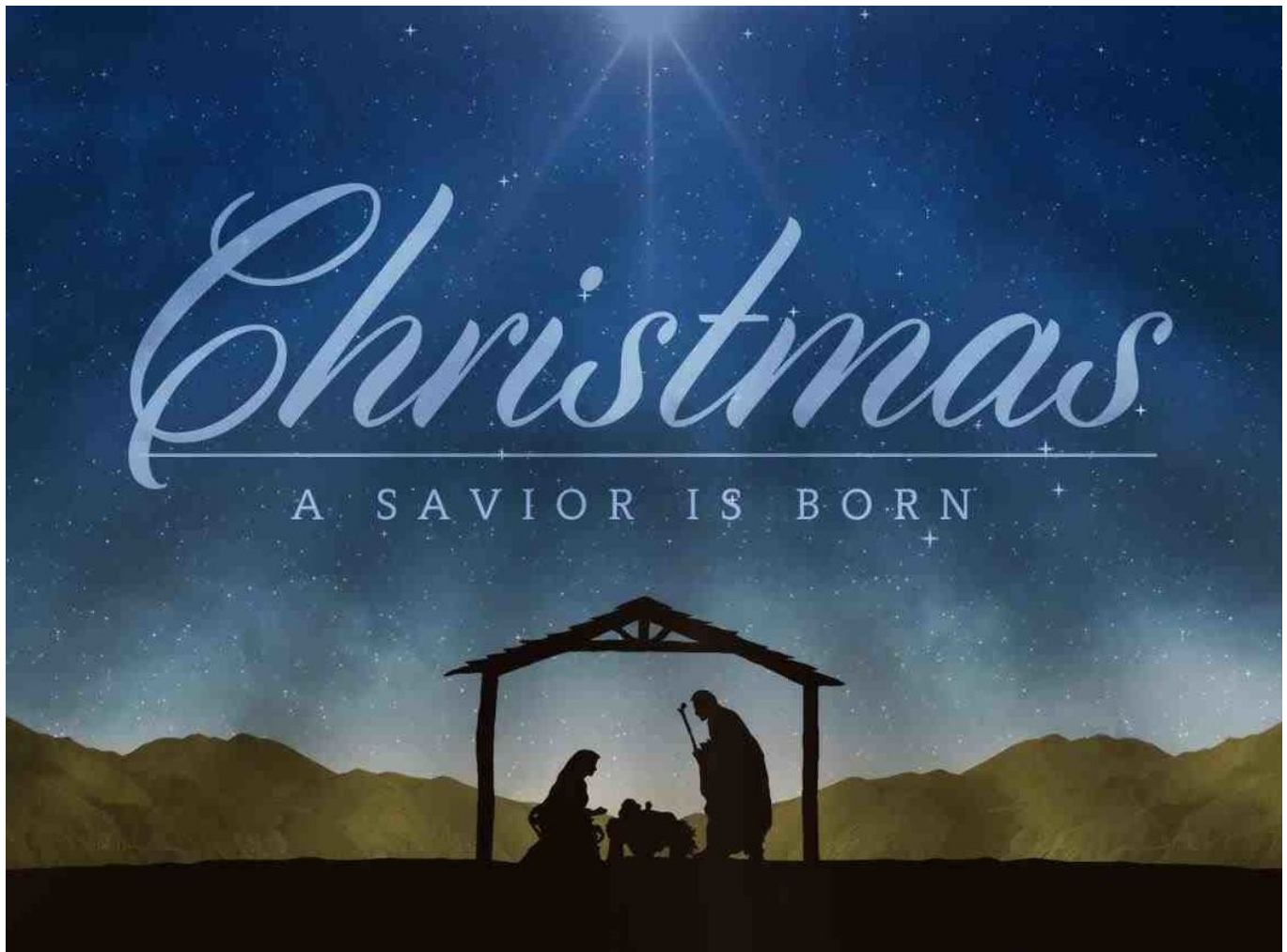


UPChurch

Love God. Love Others.

December 2021



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,

One of the reasons Christmas is my favorite time of year is because of the music of the season. Whether it's on the radio, in church, or floating through the aisles at the store, the celebration of the birth of Jesus brings me joy.

One of my favorite hymns is Go, Tell it on the Mountain.

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born



I love this hymn because it emphasizes not only the birth of Jesus but also our own response. The hymn reminds me that not only do I need to sit and enjoy the peace and promise of a new baby, but that THIS baby is one whose birth changed the world. Whose life changed the world. Whose death changed the world. Whose resurrection changed the world. And that now it is my turn to GO, to tell others about this child and about how Jesus makes the difference.

How do you Go and Tell? I personally love the quote (misattributed to St Francis of Assisi) that says, 'Preach the Gospel always, use words if necessary'. Our actions are very important, and to have our actions match our stated beliefs is even more important. But we need to remember that our actions and our words go together, as partners, and one is not more important than the other. When you hear this song during the holiday season, I encourage you to consider how both your actions and words combine to share the love and good news of Jesus with the people around you.

Go. Tell.
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



December Highlights

2nd Mobile Food Pantry
8th PW Circle
12th Congregational Meeting
15th Session
24th Christmas Eve Service
25th Christmas
31st New Year's Eve

The office will be closed on Friday the 24th in observance of Christmas.
The office will be closed on Friday the 31st in observance of New Year's Eve



Please have all receipts for this year turned into the office no later than the 20th of December.

WE ARE BLESSED AND A BLESSING:

The family of George Fulton was so grateful for the support of our church family on the day of George's Celebration of Life and the meal following. Many individuals were involved from meal coordinators to food prep people, dessert and salad makers to set-up and clean-up helpers, servers and office staff, musicians, and tech experts, to Pastor Erin and others! What an honor it is for us to serve this good man, his family and others of our church Family when the need arises.

Thanks to Matt Kaye who bravely climbed our very tall ladder and carefully changed the banner on the south wall in the sanctuary - and to Katie Lujan for supervising the event!

Thanks to Dick Hendricksen who discovered a nasty leak in the downstairs, movie room ceiling one recent Monday morning when he made his church rounds. Thanks to Dick Hendricksen, Jim Cuddeback, the Kayes and the McConnells for emptying buckets of water throughout the day and evening, until Leet's could come the following day. Repairs are underway.

We were blessed by Angie and Dave Schluetter and their excellent care of our church for the past year and we can appreciate their desire for more family time. We're pleased to welcome Jessica and Cory Canny, with sons Ren and Orin.



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 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 Sue Reed
26 Erin Thorius
26 Colton Twinam
28 Krystle Moore
29 Dorothy Koehler

30 Emory VanGerpen
30 Lorraine Williams
31 Jayse Thorius





Sunday School

Class Structure for 2021-2022

Birth - 4 yo Preschool: Upstairs in the Nursery
 Kindergarten - 5th grade: Downstairs in Son City
 6th - 8th grades: Jr High Room (Rat Pack)
 9th - 12th grades: Youth Room

CREW (Middle School Ministry)

Because of some Sunday afternoon conflicts and numbers, we are going to be meeting once a month. Our meeting for this month is TBD. We will be in touch!

Son City/CREW/HS Sunday School

Dec 5th: Work on Christmas program
 Dec 12th: Work on Christmas program
 Dec 19th: Work on Christmas program, perform during church at 10!
 Dec 26th: NO Sunday School... Merry Christmas!

Inside Out (Senior High Ministry)

Dec. 5th: 6:30pm @ UP Church
 Dec. 12th: Christmas party/dinner TBD!
 Dec 19th: 6:30pm @ UP Church
 Dec 26th: No meeting ... Merry Christmas!

Inside Out: Christmas Dinner

Details to be determined at a later date but we are planning our normal Christmas dinner on December 12th! Stay tuned!

Sunday School Christmas Program

Our traditional Christmas program is back! We will perform on Sunday, December 19th during the worship service at 10am.

The Nursery will not be staffed during this program, because we would like everyone to be able to participate in this special service .



Nursery and Pre-school Class Update:

Rhonda Shelman and Marde McConnell have had a wonderful few months with our little ones. We thank the parents for sharing their sweethearts. We've been talking about creation, and learning a lot too. We encourage you to come and join us or just wander by and take a peek. We guarantee it'll put a smile on your face.



We're so grateful to have had Teresa Anderson's help the past few months, as she loved the little ones, too. And . . . Joe Wright and Barb Schreur have helped out occasionally too, and on very short notice. We all have loved being with our dear, little ones.

God blesses us with these and all the kids and youth in our church family. May they always feel the love of us, their church family

Kids Movie - 5 pm



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



**Snacks and
Drinks
Available**

December 4th
UP Church Sanctuary

The Grinch - 5 pm
White Christmas After



We used to get excited
When we were quite small
At the rustle of tissue paper
On A Christmas tree so tall

We passed each with greetings
Merry Christmas everyone
We were gay and happy
And full of like and fun

Christmas is not quite the same
As we have older grown
It's more like a thank you day
That Jesus you were born

— Lillie Letts
(Grandmother of Rod Letts)



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Friday, December 24th
7pm



Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 12th
Immediately after worship
To hear and act upon the report from the
nominating committee
To Elect elders, deacons, and nominating
committee members



BRRRRR..... Baby It's Cold Outside!!!!

It's that time of the year again when we need to bundle up the little tikes to head off to school or play and they need hats, gloves and mittens! We will have a mitten table up in the back of the sanctuary for the last week of November and the full month of December. Please leave new or gently worn mittens, hats, gloves or scarves on the mitten table. They will then be delivered to the local elementary schools for those who need them.



Thank you for your compassion for our little friends!



Welcome Team Update:

We're pleased to report that an attractive brick border has been added to the stained-glass window site west of the sanctuary, as well as having new planting soil added. It's all ready for our spring planting.

Additionally, the shed/chain link fence area has been greatly improved with a weed barrier, a brick border and rock over the weed barrier. We're pleased that this area looks so more attractive and we're looking forward to it having many fewer weeds and requiring much less maintenance during the spring, summer and fall months.

We're SO grateful to the Bruns family for sharing border bricks with us once again and to the Property Committee for allowing Green Earth Design to do these projects. We, Welcome Team members, are so pleased to be a part of making the exterior of our church look even more inviting.

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

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 Bart2oman@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!



**Jan–November represents 83% of the year. Our income came in at 80.19%
Our expenses came in at 78.09%**



**Articles for the January newsletter are due
Wednesday, December 22nd**



Thank you to the volunteer group B. This group did an awesome job being the first group in our volunteer teams! Their group leader Angie Schluetter did great in getting everything going for our first volunteer group.

Thank you



THANKS, Crew Kids

Our Crew Kids had the inspiration for our church to be a “trunk or Treat” site. What a fantastic idea and a super way to share “ourselves” with the community!



Our church family responded to that idea in a big way! There were lots of decorated cars and kids and adults in fabulous costumes - toys and candy for all our visitors, over 200 kids. Not only that, Crew Kids and Inside Out Kids were also there to add to the excitement and fun.

This may be the beginning of a new tradition???

Thanks to all those who donated treats for this event and to those who decorated their vehicles: Andersons, Moore's, Conklin's, Lujan's, Thorius', McWhirter's, Septer's, Cuddeback's, Aldertons, McConnell's and Gaul's.

SON City Kids, Thank YOU

Our Son City Kids created the beautiful, “puzzle” cross which was displayed at the front of the sanctuary the past few weeks.

Its story began with the Stewardship Committee approaching Son City teacher Julie Zahs with the idea and the puzzle pieces. That's all it took for creative Julie to be inspired! She developed a plan and helped the kids create their masterpiece with assistance from Tracy Strabala.



Once our Stewardship Campaign is over, the lovely, puzzle piece cross, a gift from our Son City Kids, will find a new home at the church so that it can be appreciated for a long time - thanks, kids, Julie and Tracy!

SATURDAY KITCHEN UPDATE



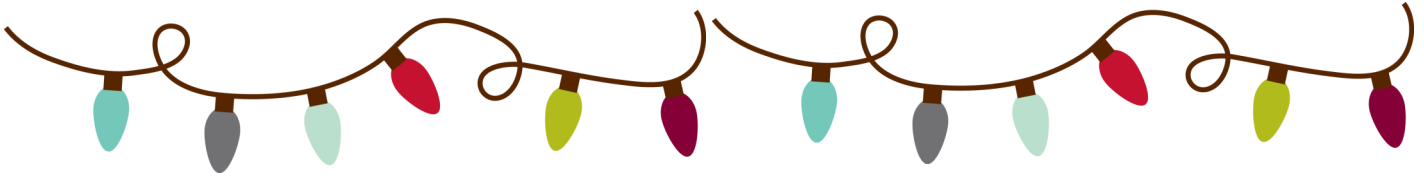
The current plan is that we will NOT re-open the Saturday Kitchen until our guests can safely have indoor dining. RenElla Crawford of HACAP has not seen a big uptick in people needing food, so that is reassuring. We will be listening to our local Public Health officials and we are hopeful later this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

Joe and Marde McConnell, Coordinators



PW Circle Meeting

We meet the second Wednesday of the month in the church lounge at 9am
All are welcome to come, please wear a mask
This year's new Bible study is "What my Grandmothers Taught Me"
Looking at the women in Jesus' genealogy



Relay for Life

Team UP and Friends was once again part of Relay for life. Relay 2021 was in a new location, the Washington County Fairgrounds new cattle barn. This year our team donated \$1,674.93. We achieved this with earnings from Unc & Nephews and Pizza Ranch fundraisers and donations from you. The total for Washington County this year was \$35,539.52.



You Are a Piece of God's Plan

We're so grateful for your committed response in 2021, Church Family Friends. Your generosity will help us continue to Love God and Love Others.

Didn't you love our UP roving TV reporter – Norris Wisebaum, aka Terry Anderson? Norris was such fun – perhaps Terry was a newscaster in a previous life?

We'll have financial details for you next month. However, we'd like to thank for our friends below for helping us with this year's campaign:

Son City Kids – Julie Zahs and Tracy Strabala
Pastor Erin – Cindy McCall – Krystle Moore
Ann Conklin, cupcake maker

AND a special thanks to our "puzzle piece" speakers:

Gary Murphy – Fellowship
Mary Atwood – Leadership
Christy Buchholz – Sharing Our Facility
Emory Van Gerpen – World Mission
Mary Jo Koehler – Music
Jane Cuddeback – Supporting One Another
Carrie Septer – Worship
James and Tracy Strabala – National Mission
Julie Zahs – Sunday School
Isabella Lujan and Tyler Alderton – Local Mission

UP Stewardship Committee:

Terry Anderson, Sandy Dunlap, Julie Johnson, Steve Liebe, Marde McConnell and Mary Saforek,

