

UPChurch

Love God. Love Others.

February 2023



Church Contacts

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

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8am-12pm Office open
**Phone will be answered during
the following hours:**
Monday- Friday 8-12pm
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



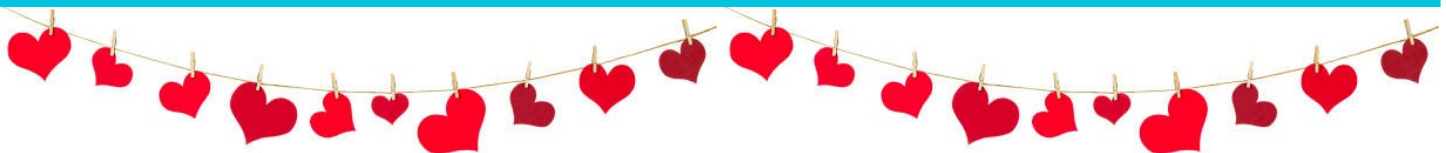
From the Pastor...

Friends,

As we approach February, we will continue walking through the Lord's Prayer on Sundays during worship. In my first sermon of the Lord's Prayer series, I encouraged you to take up the habit of daily prayer, if this is not already something you do. If you're already in this habit, keep it up!! Some ways that might be helpful to make daily prayer a habit include - setting a specific time and place to pray, putting something up as a reminder (note on the bathroom mirror, reminder on your phone?), and asking someone to join you (as an accountability partner). These are all ways to instill a habit in your life. After we finish the Lord's Prayer, for the season of Lent (the six weeks before Easter) I will have both prayer cards and a journal available for daily prayer and devotion times to help you continue the habit.

So why? Why focus on prayer? Prayer is important because it helps us to stay close to God. When we pray, we are opening up our hearts to God and God is able to work in us and through us. Prayer also helps us to grow in our relationship with God. The more we talk and spend time with someone the more we get to know them. The more we know God, the more we grow in our Christian walk. May you continue to grow in God!

Pastor
Erin



February 22nd
Fellowship Hall
6:30pm



New Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8am - 12pm

The phone will be answered

Monday - Thursday 1 - 4pm

Office Volunteers Needed

Contact the office at 319-653-6588

If you'd like to volunteer

A new Serenity Prayer

Recently Pastor Erin shared this new Serenity Prayer in a sermon. Here is a copy for those who requested it.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God. At least not the last time I checked. And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again, I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect. It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people, who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway. Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me, or that I alone have all the answers. Basically God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you. Amen.



February Highlights

8th PW Circle

8th Worship Meeting

9th Blood Drive

14th Valentine's Day



15th Session

19th Church family game night and soup cook-off

20th Sewing Day

20th President's Day

22nd Ash Wednesday



WE ARE BLESSED AND A BLESSING:

We are blessed to have Megan Alderton keep the coffee cart so well-stocked with not only coffees and other drinks, but also the cups and other items needed. Megan, we appreciate your commitment to constantly stay on top of the coffee cart needs so the rest of us can enjoy our special Sunday drinks.

We are blessed to have Cyndy and Andy McCall and Julie Johnson coordinating the upcoming February Adult mission trip opportunity to Kentucky. All 14 participants are so grateful for their commitment in helping others. Thanks so much, Cyndy, Andy, and Julie!!

We were a blessing to Washington educators. As part of the Chamber of Commerce Educators' Night Out, our UPC family helped to restock the educators' supply closets. A Mission Committee financial donation helped to purchase both tissues and expo markers. We helped make a difference!

We are blessed to have our monthly volunteer groups and their coordinators: Megan Alderton, Christy Buchholz, Jane Cuddeback and Barb Liebe. The wonderful coordinators and their groups serve as weekly greeters, scripture readers, kids' time presenter and communion servers. They set up the coffee cart and other drinks and help to provide one, fellowship opportunity each month. There are no words to thank these coordinators and volunteer groups, we are grateful!

We were a blessing to Stewart Elementary students. Thanks to the Presbytery of East Iowa and grant writer Pastor Erin, nearly 20 books were given to the Stewart Elementary library. The books were selected by school personnel and had our church label inside the cover. All books encouraged kindness and exemplified inclusion and diversity.



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 Megan Mithchell
6 Ethel Moothart
7 Grace Schiebel
8 Ellen Twinam
9 Terry Anderson
10 Teresa Anderson
11 Luke Schiebel
12 Beth Clark

14 James Strabala
17 Brian Strabala
14 Phil Kleese
20 Lincoln Kleese
21 Isaac Rich
22 Alice Martin
23 Amanda Burke
24 John Thorne

27 Erik Buchholz
28 Abigail Kleese
28 Bev Young
29 Travis Shelman



Son City (K-4th Grade)

We will be learning about David as a young boy and Goliath. Mary Jo will be working with the kids to play bells during church on February 19th.

Julie Zahs, Tracy Strabala, Jane Cuddeback

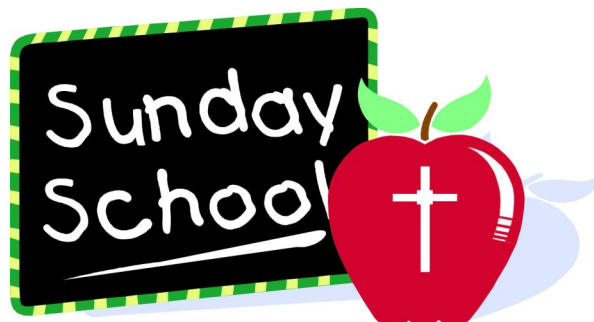
CREW (5th – 8th grade Ministry)

Crew will be packing boxes for HACAP. Date and time TBD, look for email updates.

Brad and Megan Alderton
Travis Moore

Inside Out (9th-12th grade Ministry)

Sundays, 6:30pm @ UP Church
(check your messages for info!)



Sunday School

Class Structure for 2022-2023

8:45am

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



Church Family Game Night and Soup Cook-off

February 19th
Fellowship Hall
4-6:30pm

Start planning your best soup recipe to
enter in the cook-off!

More details to come.



Has anyone borrowed a DVD called the Story of Ruth. The DVD was in the library and it actually belongs to Gary Murphy and he would appreciate it if it would be returned to him.



Hot chocolate or cider?
Coffee or tea?
Soda or juice box?



Kids and adults alike - during these cold winter months we encourage all to enjoy our warm Keurig options or . . . cold soda or juice? These drink items will be available each Sunday.

As always, donations are appreciated.



Feb 5th

Shared worship with Immanuel Lutheran
AT Immanuel 1226 E Washington
Pastor Erin will lead worship there
9am

No Sunday School or worship at UP Church that day

Sunday, May 7 - Immanuel will join us for worship at UP Church, led
by their pastor



Upcoming t-shirt/sweatshirt order

The welcome team is making arrangements to offer love god/love others shirts and sweatshirts once again. We encourage everyone to consider ordering an UP shirt - replace one you or your kiddos may have or just order an UP shirt. They're fun to wear and a great way to remind those around you how our up church family is committed to love god and love others.



More specific information next month.

New fellowship time - Communion Sunday

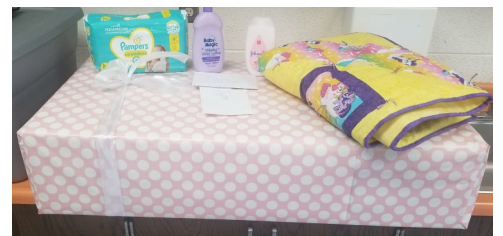
The plan is to add a second fellowship time, communion Sunday after worship on typically the first Sunday of the month. The welcome team is pleased to be bringing this fellowship time back. We're very pleased and know you will be pleased - too!

As a reminder, we have been trying to have one fellowship meal or gathering each month, so . . . now two special times for us all to visit!



Baby Gift

The Schluetter baby gift will be presented to Dayton and baby Delta Marie at the monthly welcome team meeting. This smaller setting was requested, limiting the group size - keeping in mind the health of very new baby Delta.



New Members

We're so pleased to have UP friends now become members and officially part of our church family. In the next few months you'll be introduced to: Susan Houtz, Joslyn and Dalton Bryant and their sweet Ava and Briggs, and Jess and Cory Canny and their dear Ren and Orin. More next month.



Jan-Dec represents 100% of the year.
Our income came in at 88.71%
Our expenses came in at 79.08%



Articles for the March
newsletter are due
Wednesday, February 15th



Saturday Kitchen – Thank You, UP Family!

Thanks for all the many ways you support the Saturday kitchen and the individuals we serve as we reach out and show our love to god and show our love to god and love to others.



Joe and Marde McConnell, Saturday Kitchen Coordinators

Continuing to Love God & Love Others in this New Year of 2023

The "Carver Group" has been back at it again this winter earning money for mission by working concession stands. I joined in to help at a wrestling meet this past week and loved their positive energy and efficient work style. Some of this money will be supporting a group of approximately 12 people from our church and others from various churches heading to Kentucky. In Kentucky, they will help build habitat houses in an area that had been hit by tornadoes. It is so exciting to see that there are so many from our church family willing and able to help these who have had so many challenges. I am sure there will be a lot to share when they return.

A couple weeks ago we learned of an opportunity through an event put together by the Washington Chamber of Commerce to help local educators refill their supply closets. Thanks to Pastor Erin and Ann Conklin for their hand in presenting 60 boxes of Kleenex and 180 expo markers to our area educators.

Teresa Anderson

Mitten Tree

Through the generous donations by our church family we were able to give over 60 pairs of mittens and gloves and nearly 30 stocking caps to Lincoln and Stewart elementary schools. They were very appreciated by the staffs at Lincoln and Stewart. The gloves, mittens, and hats will be handed out to students who either don't have any or have forgotten them at home.



Dear United Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for helping to sponsor our Christmas Day meals. We were able to give away 450 meals to those in need. These meals this year were especially appreciated by our guests! Thank you again for your partnership with us.



Pastor Dave Watson, Washington First Assembly

Do You or Someone You Know Need Prayers from Our Church Family?

As a mission of our Board of Deacons, our church has an email prayer chain. If you are in need of prayers, or if someone you know is in need of prayer (with their permission), please share this request with Mary Atwood. She will send out this request to all of those in our church family who wish to be included in the church's prayer chain. To contact Mary, call her at 319-653-5868 or email her at maryjoyatwood@gmail.com





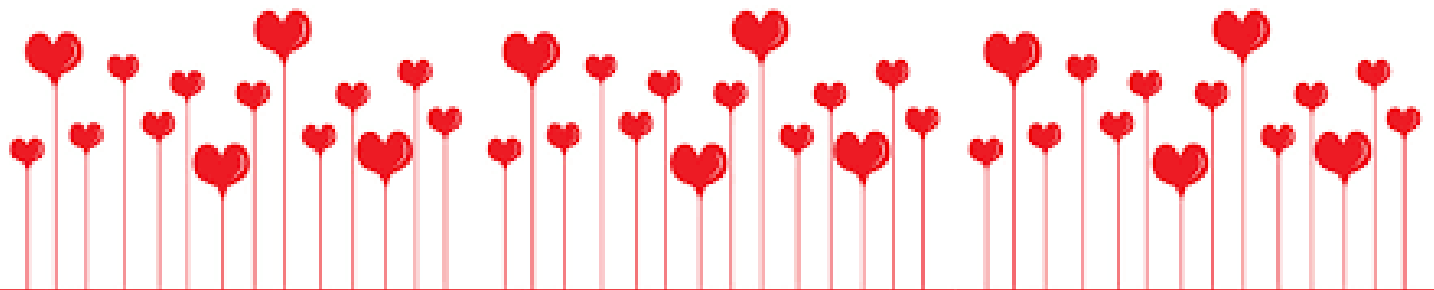
Musical Notes from Mary Jo,

I've been digging into the files of choral music in the music room, making plans for our choir to take part in worship in the coming months! Here are the plans for the first third of 2023: Our first anthem will be sung on February 26th. I haven't yet selected a song, but the theme Pastor Erin has chosen centers around the final portion of the Lord's Prayer that is used in Protestant churches: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever," and this will influence the message of our anthem. Easter Sunday is April 9, and the choir will also sing an anthem during that service.

As a reminder, our choir has been invited to join with the choir of Immanuel Lutheran Church as part of our joint worship service at the Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 5th. Rehearsals for this service began on Wednesday, January 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church, and they will continue each Wednesday through February 1. We will dovetail the two rehearsals and on February 1st we will gather *following* practice at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Assuming that practice there will take approximately 15 minutes, we'll plan to begin our rehearsal in the UP chapel at 7:15 p.m. Three more evening rehearsals (also in the chapel) will take place on Thursdays: February 9th, 16th, and 23rd at 7p.m., and a quick rehearsal will occur on Sunday morning the 26th prior to worship (around 9:45 a.m., after Sunday School lets out).

Rehearsals for Easter Sunday (April 9) will occur on the following Wednesdays: March 22, March 29, and April 5, all at 7p.m. in the chapel, with a brief rehearsal on Easter morning. If there are any changes to this schedule, we'll inform you via email. All who enjoy proclaiming your faith in song are encouraged to join us as we have fellowship with one another through song!

We'll also be adding children's bells to both services, with practices occurring at the beginning of Sunday School. Son City and Rat Pack kids are all invited to participate – we have plenty of bells!



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