



January 2023



**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,

It is hard to believe that I began my time as your pastor 4 years ago. As we enter the new year, I am looking back over the past few years with joy, and forward with expectation.

Together we have worshiped, prayed, served, celebrated, and mourned. Together we have grown. Together we have welcomed new faces into the family of faith and bid others farewell. Together we have lived.

As we move forward on the journey, I am thankful for God's presence among us, and for the grace Jesus offers each of us. I am also thankful for the work of the Holy Spirit, urging us ever toward the Kingdom of Heaven. I look forward to what God is doing among us, both as individuals and as a congregation. I look forward to more shared time, to more shared joy, to more shared support as we face the good times and the hard times.

Thank you for being on the journey with me. Let us continue forward in faith.

Blessings,  
Pastor Erin



Erin will be on vacation January  
1st– 3rd.

Anna Sheetz will be preaching on  
January 1st.



### Inclement Weather Announcements

Weather related closings will be reported to KCRG, KCII, and a flocknote would be sent out.

### The Work of Christmas

By Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among the people,  
To make music in the heart.

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

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

Offering  
Giving Back  
To God



## January Highlights

1st New Year's Day  
3rd Deacon Meeting  
8th Communion  
11th PW Circle

11th Worship Meeting  
16th Martin Luther King Day  
17th Finance  
18th Session  
24th Hospice Soup/Supper  
29th Annual Meeting/Potluck



### WE ARE BLESSED AND A BLESSING:

We are blessed to have had April and Halle Cuddeback spend many hours updating some of our indoor Christmas decorations, creating some very pretty new wreaths and centerpieces and decorating our north windows. The beautiful centerpiece at the refreshment table following the kids' Christmas program was due to their caring and creativity, too. Thanks, April and Halle, for the gift of your time and talents.

We are blessed to have so many volunteers who reach out in love and caring, not only to help our church run smoothly, but who truly reach out in Loving Others whether to our church family friends in need and/or to help so many others and in so many ways, too.

We are blessed to have Mary Lou Saforek who so efficiently coordinates our tech booth AND who shares her creative graphic talents in so many

ways, also. We so appreciate you, Mary Lou.

We were a blessing to those in need as church groups took on HACAP families for Christmas gifts, brought hats and mittens for school kids in need, continue to support our HACAP food boxes and gave Christmas Joy Offering gifts.

We were a blessing to Proteus, an Iowa City non-profit group. We had the opportunity to share our facility with this worthy organization which offers affordable health care and other services for agricultural and/or migrant workers.

We were a blessing to also have shared our facility with our local Optimae friends. The Optimae choir had a recent Christmas concert for their family and friends in our Fellowship Hall where refreshments were also served. It was a very special night for all involved.



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 Kathy Hunt  
1 Grace Buckingham  
5 Kyle Anderson  
5 Esther Bordwell  
6 Gabby Anderson  
8 Mary Oviatt  
9 Linden Brinning  
10 Clem Griffith  
10 Roy Carter

13 Noah Rich  
13 Tracy Strabala  
14 Janet Conrad  
14 Lauren McWhirter  
16 Gary Herlein  
16 Vivian Griffith  
17 Larry Krotz  
19 Randy Fehr  
19 Jacob Thorius

20 Orin Canny  
22 Vernie Lowry  
23 Sarah Miles  
25 Julie Mangold  
27 Megan El Haoud  
28 Lyle Stacy  
28 Shirley Whisler  
29 Rick Bordwell  
30 Cyndy McCall



## Christmas Program Loved by All

The kids' Christmas Program was wonderful as always! It began with the little ones, marching forward waving their glittery, yellow stars to the song We're Following the Star. Next, Isabella Lujan shared a sweet book during the kids' time - adults were encouraged to join in and came up front, too!

We heard Joy to the World played by the younger kids with their colorful bells with our Mary Jo directing. Then the Christmas story was shared - complete with Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, shepherds, wisemen, angels, animals, King Herod and his assistant. The story had an interesting twist, told from King Herod's perspective!

Christmas carols were sung and enjoyed by all. It was a wonderful morning, a fantastic kids' program and yummy refreshments of cookies, snacks and frozen fruit slushies.

It's important to try to thank everyone who helped make that Sunday morning event possible. There were the Sunday School teachers and helpers, youth leaders, music gals, parents, tech folks, refreshment providers, hosts for the reception afterward and, of course, Pastor Erin for her support and flexibility! We're grateful to each of the above for helping our kids and youth learn about and share the true meaning of Christmas and Christ's birth.



**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

**CREW** (5th – 8th grade Ministry)



Crew had a great time in December, celebrating Christmas and supporting a local HACAP family. Crew will meet next on January 15th 5:00-7:30 \*note time change\* at the church. Dinner will be provided. See you then!

Brad and Megan Alderton



**Son City** (K-4th Grade)

The Son City youth and Rat Pack middle schoolers had a successful time learning and playing *Joy to the World* on bells with Mary Jo. Thank you Mary Jo. Our next unit will be Daniel and the Lions' Den.

Julie Zahs

**All Saints Celebration**

January 8th During Worship

We will celebrate and remember our church family members that we have lost over the last year.

**Annual Meeting**

January 29th

Installation of Deacons and Elders  
Potluck meal provided by church members after worship.

## New Office Hours

Beginning January 9<sup>th</sup>

**Monday-Friday Office will be open 8am-12pm**

**The phone will be answered Monday-Thursday 1-4pm**

**Office Volunteer's Needed**

**Contact the office at 319-653-6588 if you'd like to volunteer**

**Feb 5th Mark your calendar**

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





Saturday Kitchen – Thank You, UP Family!

Joe and I are so thankful for our UP Family! The week before we hosted on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Day, we had several families and individuals volunteer to help, in response to a flocknote. We are always reminded of how our church family “Loves Others” and in their willingness to help and on Christmas Eve Day! God bless you, one and all!

New Year’s Day, the Saturday Kitchen is being hosted by individuals from any of the host groups. We’re going to be gone and Teresa Anderson has willingly volunteered to coordinate this Pizza Party Event! Pizzas have been donated by Pizza Hut, Pizza Ranch and Casey’s, East and West. Since Dino’s doesn’t open until 5pm, they’ll make another donation and other food will be served. We hope it will be a fun time for all and . . . not too much work for the hosts. Thanks to all involved and to Teresa for severing as coordinator.

Joe and Marde McConnell, Saturday Kitchen Coordinators

Dear Members of United Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for your amazing gift to our cabin update project at Camp Wyoming. We are excited for the improvements and look to a fabulous experience for children and youth. We could not do this without you!

Thank you  
Kevin Cullum Executive Director



### Update on Kitch Shatzer and Shiip

For six weeks, Kitch used our facility to meet with her clients through the State Health Information Insurance Assistance Program. We were thrilled to share our facility for this program which helps individuals in Iowa choose the most affordable medical supplement program. Due to Kitch’s expertise and guidance in working with 281 individuals, a total of \$75,000 was saved!

Kitch expressed her VERY deep appreciation to the church for allowing her to meet with her clients at the church, in the former pre-school room. She said many clients were so grateful for our paved parking lot, the easy access into the church and her meeting area near the entry. I know we all thank you, Kitch, for allowing us to have a very small part in your helping others.



Jan–Nov represents 92% of the year.  
Our income came in at 77.84%  
Our expenses came in at 71.94%



Articles for the February  
newsletter are due  
Wednesday, January 18th



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! I am overwhelmed by the caring shown to me with prayers, cards, food and drivers since my diagnosis. More treatments are ahead, but God and many others are on this journey with me and that is so reassuring.

*Thank you*

Diana Henry

### **Hanging of the Greens**

This “return event” was well-received and much was accomplished in a very short amount of time. Indoor and outdoor church decorating took place, lunch was served, and laughter and joy was had by all.

Thanks to all those who gave an hour or so of their time. Thanks especially to Matt Kaye, who organized the lunch and to April Cuddeback who organized the decorating.

### **Movie Night**

Movie night was so exciting! It was such a fun evening for all in attendance, complete with laughter as the very popular ELF movie was shown. Of course, there was popcorn, as well as other movie goodies. People of all ages were there and it was wonderful to see the kiddos in their jammies running around and lying on their sleeping bags, watching a kid-friendly movie on our big screens.

Thanks to Heather Anderson, April Cuddeback and Erin Thorius for making Movie Night possible !!



### **Schluetter Baby Gift**

Your generosity will make possible our gift to Dayton Schluetter - a stroller/wagon to use as she cares for her new baby. Thank you to each of you for reaching out in love.

### **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.

### **Nursery Volunteers Needed**

If you would be interested in volunteering in the nursery during worship, watching and taking care of our young children please contact the office at 319-653-6588 and Krystle will assist you. We need one individual to volunteer on Jan 29th with another church member already signed up. We would need two individuals yet for Feb 26th.