

UPChurch

Love God. Love Others.

December 2023



Dec 17th 10am Children's Christmas Program

Dec 24th 10am Regular and 7pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

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

Family Ministry Director

Dan Frost
upfamilyministry@gmail.com

Organist

Virginia Bordwell
Virginia@washingtontitle.org

Worship Band

Mary Jo Koehler
aceofspace99@gmail.com



From the Pastor...

Friends,

In January, we will have been here in Washington for five years. As I look forward to the Christmas season, I am excited at the changes I see happening. Dan Frost and family are in place, and there are many fun events in the works. Our littlest members continue to lead the way for us in worship - showing up regularly thanks to their devoted adults and helping to sing and worship joyfully. Many of you are participating in worship in a variety of new ways as well - reading, singing, and giving minute for mission talks, just to name a few. We've partnered with Immanuel Lutheran on Sunday mornings and for youth activities, helping to share the good news of Jesus across a wider range of people and places. When we moved here 5 years ago I could have never imagined this, but I'm thankful for the faithfulness God has shown and continues to show us, both individually and as a community.

What will the next five years bring? I can only imagine!

Blessings,
Pastor Erin



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

The office will be closed on December 25th and 26th in observance of Christmas.



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.

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

3rd Communion
4th UP Home Communion
10th Congregational Meeting
10th Crew
13th PW Circle
14th Blood Drive
15th Family Movie Night

17th Children's Christmas Program
19th Finance
20th Session
23rd Saturday Kitchen Hosts
24th Christmas Eve
24th Communion
25th Christmas
30th Saturday Kitchen Joint Hosts
31st New Year's Eve



WE ARE BLESSED AND A BLESSING:

We are blessed that Alicia Andrews, Anne Youngman, Terry Anderson, Isabella Lujan, Tyler Alderton and Gary Murphy shared their stories about what our church means to them. Their heartfelt messages were a reminder that our church family reaches out in caring and love in so many ways.

We're a blessing to Kitch, as the SHIPP, Senior Health Insurance Information Program representative. She meets people in our lounge and tries to help them lower their medication expenses.

We were a blessing to the families of Washington who attended our Trunk or Treat Halloween event which was moved indoors! Everyone loved the games, activities, hot chocolate and warmer temperatures inside, too! Parents also appreciated the many non-candy treat items passed out!

We are blessed to have had Julie Zahs create the beautiful fall display on our communion table. Thank you, Julie, for sharing your abundance, reminding us of God's abundant love for each of us.

We are blessed to have our U.P. quilt makers and others who share their fabrics with them. The beautiful "thinking about you and caring about you" quilts created by and shared with our church family, as well as with others in our community and faraway places give such joy and warmth to so many.

We were recently a blessing to the Lion's club members. We received a short thank you note from a member saying, "Lions Club thanks you for providing the use of your building for our recent pancake dinner." We are a blessing to many organizations with which we graciously share our facility.

Congregational Meeting

To hear the report of the nominating committee to elect elders and deacons.
December 10th
At the end of worship



PW Meeting Change

Pw will be meeting at the Frontier for brunch on Dec 13th at 10am. Anyone is welcome to join us.

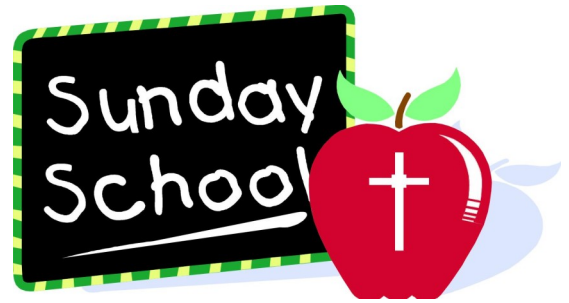
1 Linda Boston	12 Barry Johnson	28 Krystle Moore
2 Nick Shelman	13 Lisa Buitendorp	28 Alecia Goff
5 Emma Alderton	20 Sarah Robison	29 Dorothy Koehler
5 Jim Buitendorp	21 Joe McConnell	30 Emory VanGerpen
7 Lois Holland	24 Sue Reed	30 Lorraine Williams
9 Katie McWhirter	26 Erin Thorius	31 Jayse Thorius



Crew (6th-8th grade Ministry)
Sunday, December 10th
More information to come



Inside Out (9th-12th grade Ministry)
Sundays, 6:30pm @ UP Church
(check your messages for info!)



Class Structure for 2023-2024

8:45am

Birth - 4 yo Preschool:

Upstairs in the Nursery

Kindergarten - 5th grade:

Downstairs in Son City

6th - 8th grades: Rat Pack Room

9th - 12th grades: Youth Room

Middle School News

The Middle School Sunday School, known as the Rat Pack, has been studying the “black letters” of Jesus. Many are aware that the red letters in the Bible refer to the words that Jesus spoke, but this curriculum looks into Jesus’ actions – or the “black letters.” The youth are learning what actions we can use to serve God in our day to day lives. A big thank you goes out to their teachers Erin Thorius, Katie Lujan, and Amber Burke!

On various Sunday afternoons, the Middle School Crew meets to put our actions to use, socialize, have fun, and learn a little more about God. This group has prepared and served a meal for Saturday Kitchen and also created and led games for Trunk or Treat. If you are a 5-8th grader, Dan, Brenda, and Christy would love to have you join us!



Son City

The K-4th graders have been busy this fall learning about David and Goliath. They've watched videos and performed a play for others to watch down in our drama room. The Rainbow Ringers also had fun playing bells during church.

The students, along with Rat Pack (5-8th) worked together to make another version of the Baptism Booklet to be given families/children when they are baptized. We made the book using wallpaper to create a collage look. It was fun to watch the different ages work together so well! It's almost ready to be printed. We talked about being thankful as we made fruit turkeys, to share with everyone after church Nov. 12. We put specific fruit on long sticks to create "turkey feathers" for our pear turkey. The kids enjoyed helping make the food. Maybe they can make more fruit turkeys at home for Thanksgiving.

Next, we'll be getting ready for the Christmas program. Check out our photo display in Fellowship Hall.

Julie Zahs, Tracy Strabala, Jane Cuddeback



UP Family MINISTRIES

Hello UP family. As I reflect on the joy of Christmas, I am reminded of the miracle of the Incarnation of Jesus. What an amazing idea for us to ponder. Jesus left the throne in Heaven to become a baby, in order to suffer and die so that he could provide hope for those who have rebelled against him. What a great Savior we have. As we celebrate this Advent season let us be reminded of Jesus love for us. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." John 1: 14 Jesus is the reason we celebrate. He is worthy of our praise. I pray that the miracle of the Incarnation will fill our minds as we remember the birth of Jesus this season.



UP Christmas program will be Sunday Morning December 17: There will be rehearsal s during the Sunday School Hour on December 3 and 10. Please plan on attending Sunday School these mornings to be prepared for the program. Questions contact Krista Gaal.

December 15 UP will be hosting our Annual Movie Night. This year we will also be expanding the evening to include making Christmas cookies. If you would like to be involved in helping makes some Christmas cookies please contact Dan Frost. Tlme of the evening is 6:30

Starting Dec. 3rd our Middle School Youth will begin meeting on a weekly basis SUNDAYS 4-5:30! We are excited to provide our youth with more opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship and fun.



Trunk or Treat

Once again our Crew youth group helped host the church's Trunk or Treat. The Crew kids helped with the many fun games offered to the trunk or treaters. Everyone that attended and helped had a great time! Due to the cold temperatures on Halloween the event was moved inside into the fellowship hall. Even though the event was moved indoors there were still many different and fun displays for the kids to enjoy. The games, activities, and hot chocolate were enjoyed by everyone that came.

Thanks to all of the church family who helped organize, donate items to hand out, and volunteer to help make this event run so smoothly!





Donation Goal Achieved!

Over the past several years we have been collecting the Sunday School offering with a goal of purchasing an “Ark” through Heifer International. An Ark costs \$5000 and includes two each of the following: water buffaloes, cows, sheep, and goats. The Ark also includes bees, chicks, rabbits, and more depending on where the ark is donated and will benefit many people in need. We are excited to announce that we have reached our goal this past year and have sent the funds to Heifer International. Thank you for your generous donations to help reach our goal!



The Sunday School offering will now be directed to a variety of local charities, which will be determined at the end of the year. A portion of the Sunday School offering will be directed towards HACAP.



Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, Dec 24th
No Sunday School
Morning
10am
Candlelight
7pm





We're so grateful to serve as the host location for the Saturday Kitchen each Saturday for the past 12 years, except for the Covid break. As we prepare the 2024 schedule, we thank you, Church Family, for once again committing to reach out to those in need of food and fellowship in the upcoming year. The leadership of this community mission project truly shows our Love of Others and helps us spread God's Love to about 80 individuals in and around Washington each Saturday!



The Nelson family are missionaries in Jordan who receive some support from our church. They have asked the following:

- Pray for peace** Civilian casualties are continuing to rise daily, including many, many children. Pray that leaders of influence would rise up to make decisions that would minimize the amount of unnecessary civilian deaths.
- Pray for the believers** in Gaza and the West Bank that they would be comforted and also be a comfort and light to their neighbors. May God give them the boldness and grace to love their enemies, as Jesus commanded us all to do.
- Pray for our team** in Jordan that they could grieve with our Palestinian friends, but NOT grieve as people without hope (1 Thess 4:13). Pray that they would have opportunities to share about the hope of Jesus.
- Pray for salvation.** Jesus, would all peoples come to know You and believe in you; only here may we see all hostility die. Amen

Mission Committee: Teresa Anderson, Krista Gaal, Lynn Loula, Joe McConnell, Dana Conklin, Roger Miles, and Ron Dillon



Please help decorate our mitten tree

We are asking for your help in covering our Christmas tree with mittens, gloves, and hats for the Washington elementary schools. The biggest need is for mittens and gloves in sizes appropriate for ages 5 to 11. The tree will be up through December and you are welcome to place items right on the tree. Then the items will be delivered to the schools around Christmas time/first of the new year.

Thanks for your generosity!
The Mission Committee



The end of Oct represents 83% of the year. Our income came in at 62.59%
Our expenses came in at 72.18%



Articles for the January Newsletter are due
Wednesday, December 20th