


UPChurch

Love God. Love Others.

January 2024



May the faith of God
be with you this year.
May the peace of God
surround you,
and may you be blessed
each day!

Happy New Year

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,

On January 1, there was an important anniversary in my life - and in yours! We have been partners in ministry for 5 years! As I look back, I cannot help but be humbled by glimpses of God's love and provision throughout our time together.

As I arrived in 2019, you were in the process of saying goodbye to two full time staff people, as well as your custodian. In our second year together, Covid arrived, and we navigated all of the ups and downs of that time of uncertainty and stress. In 2021 we received news of the Pringle Estate gift, and we began to dream about the possibilities this new source of funds could open up. In 2022 we began to search for a Family Ministry Director, and we looked forward with expectation and excitement. Finally, at the end of 2023, we brought Dan Frost and his family to our community, and they have certainly kicked off Dan's ministry with gusto.

Through it all, we have laughed and cried, prayed and sang, worshiped and learned, and journeyed together. There have been baptisms, confirmations, ordinations, weddings, funerals, and many other life events. We have served our community and our world together. We have loved God and loved others. I am looking forward to the continuation of our journey, and I am excited about what God is doing in our community of faith, in our larger community, and in our world. The traditional gift for a 5 year anniversary is wood, symbolizing strong roots and a relationship that's made to last. I am thankful for the roots we have developed over our time together, and I look forward to the continuation of our relationship, as we explore ways to share God's love with our community and our world.

Blessings,
Pastor Erin



**Out of
OFFICE**

Pastor Erin will be on a planning retreat January 2nd-5th.

The office will be closed on
January 1st in observance of New Years
Day.



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



January Highlights

1st New Year's Day
7th Communion
9th Deacon Meeting
10th PW Meeting

14th Committee Meeting Day
16th Finance Meeting
17th Session
21st All Saints
23rd Hospice Soup/Supper
28th Annual Meeting



WE ARE BLESSED AND A BLESSING:

We are blessed April Cuddeback created the lovely Christmas display at the front of the Sanctuary. Additionally, many other volunteers helped with the decorating inside and out in the church. Thanks, April and others for your efforts in beautifying the church.

We are blessed Megan Strabala created all the glittery stars that our nursery kiddos waved as they sang during our children's program. Each star was unique and special, just as our little ones are unique and special.

We were recently a blessing to about 10 high school students. They received quilts made by our sewing gals. Thank you for spreading your love once again, Church quilters.

We are blessed Ken Wulf cleaned up our north sidewalks. Ken noticed there were lots of berries

on the sidewalk which were getting stepped on and making a mess. Ken took matters into his own hands and cleaned it all up! Thanks, Ken.

We are blessed Angie Frost and daughters, Autumn and Scarlet decorated our south Christmas-themed bulletin boards. Thanks for sharing your talents, Gals, and on rather short notice.

We were a blessing to the families of Washington who received one of the 50 recently packed HACAP food boxes. We have Ron Dillon and Anne and Jordan Youngman to thank for packing all the 50 boxes!

We're a blessing to all who attended our December 30th Saturday Kitchen meal, a Christmas meal complete with pretty decorations and Christmas music. Thanks, U.P. Church Family volunteers, for your help on the 30th.



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 Atwal
5 Kyle Anderson
5 Esther Bordwell
6 Gabby Anderson
8 Mary Oviatt
9 Linden Brinning
10 Clem Griffith
10 Roy Carter

11 Leda Andrews
13 Tracy Strabala
14 Lauren McWhirter
16 Gary Herlein
16 Vivian Griffith
17 Larry Krotz
19 Randy Fehr
19 Jake Thorius
20 Orin Canny

23 Sarah Orris
23 Ren Canny
27 Megan El Haoud
28 Lyle Stacy
28 Shirley Whisler
29 Rick Bordwell
30 Cyndy McCall



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



Crew (6th-8th grade Ministry)
 Sundays, 4pm @ UP Church

Youth Christmas Program

The morning began with our sweet little ones singing We're Following the Star and waving their glittery yellow stars. Next Isabella Lujan shared a Christmas story with our little ones and few other not-so-littles joining in.



Then our elementary kids shared the creation story, with Annie Septer as the narrator. The kids acted out each day through shadows and behind a huge curtain at the front of the sanctuary. Then our older kids shared the nativity story through shadows and to the special background music, Hallelujah. The program was like nothing we've seen before and comments afterward were, "Beautiful, moving, special, meaningful, unique, etc." The kids knew how special it had been, too! God speaks to us in many ways . . .

There are so many to thank for sharing their time and talents in this year's Christmas program: Julie Zahs, Krista Gaal, Tracy Strabala, Brad



Alderton, Pastor Erin, Carolyn Bollman, Amanda Burke, Rhonda Shelman, Megan Strabala, and Marde McConnell. We're so blessed to have had God's word shared in such a beautiful and special way.



FAMILY MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Relationships

When we consider what it means to “Love God. Love Others.” we must recognize that relationships are at the center of our mission. First our relationship with God, followed by our relationship with others. (Matthew 22:36-40)

How is your relationship with God? What steps are you going to take this year to improve that relationship?

How are your relationships with others? How can you serve your family, friends, and community in a more Christ like way?



Movie and Cookie Night

We had a blast at this year’s movie night. In addition to watching a movie, we added the element of baking Christmas cookies. We had a church load of people from all the different generations. We had a blast having snacks, decorating cookies and just being together. It is wonderful when all the people can come together for some great fun and fellowship.





The Church Office

As some of you might know, Krystle will be having back surgery January 3rd. A flocknote sign-up has been sent out for assistance with office coverage during this time. The plan is that Krystle will work from home as she is able to. She will answer emails and answer the phone when needed. We are asking for patience while Krystle is recovering from surgery. If you are able to volunteer in the office please contact the office and Krystle will assist you. As a reminder the office is open 8am-noon Monday-Friday. Volunteer tasks include answering the phone and greeting people.

January 14th

Ordination and installation of deacons and elders during worship

Committee Meeting Day after worship

All Saints Celebration

January 21st During Worship

We will celebrate and remember church family members who have died during 2023.

Annual Meeting

January 28th after worship
Potluck meal provided by church members
Meat is provided



UPLIFT Porch Pot Class

The UP's UPLIFT group participated in a porch pot class at the James Family Greenhouse in Sigourney. The group had a fun time learning and how to and then creating their own porch pot for their homes. Everyone that participated had a great time creating, enjoying each others fellowship, and each others creations. A special thanks to April Cuddeback for planning the event. If you would be interested in joining the UPLIFT group contact the office and Krystle will assist you.





We're happy to report that we're all set for 2024! It's so affirming that nearly all our hosts from last year returned! We have a total of about 30 hosts with a couple of groups working together. We're excited to have three new host groups: Friends from Walmart, Members of the Y's Men and Women's Group, and volunteers from Hills Bank and Trust.

UP Church Saturday Kitchen Dates for 2024

May 11th

June 22nd U.P. Pathfinder's Sunday School Class

June 29th

August 10th

Sept 14th U.P. Youth/Fareway

Oct 12th

Nov 30th U.P. Families of Faith Sunday School Class

Dec 21st

Dec 28th Joint Hosts

We're grateful to you, our Church Family, for all the ways you support the Saturday Kitchen and show your Love of God and love of others – we are making a difference in the lives of others.

If you have questions or are interested in being a part of this U.P. outreach ministry, please contact Joe or Marde McConnell at 653-3884.

Happy New Year! May the New Year bring new beginnings with old friends and new friends.

Luke 4:18-19

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

The Mission Team

"Pray Without Ceasing!"

Won't you become a part of our church's email prayer chain? If you know of someone in need of our prayers (with their permission), share this information with our prayer chain coordinator Mary Atwood (maryjoyatwood@gmail.com or 319-653-5868). If you would like to receive the notice of our prayer needs and commit to faithfully pray for those requesting prayers, also contact Mary. We currently have 84 households that our requests go out to. We have lots of faithful, committed prayers but can always welcome more! The prayer chain is one of the ministries of our Board of Deacons.



The end of Nov represents 92% of the year. Our income came in at 83.29%
Our expenses came in at 82.97%



Articles for the February Newsletter are due
Wednesday, January 19th