



December 2024

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Children's Christmas Program
Dec 22nd 10am*

*Christmas Eve Service
Dec 24th 7pm*

Church Contacts

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

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8am-12pm Office open
**The phone is 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



From the Pastor...

Friends,

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

We are using an Advent series filled with blessings, with the scriptures and reminders we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. These reminders root us in the fundamental truths of our faith. Many of them are life lessons we teach to children—lessons that adults continue to learn and relearn. They may resemble the blessings we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies like weddings, graduations, or baptisms. And so, I invite you to move through this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.

As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.

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

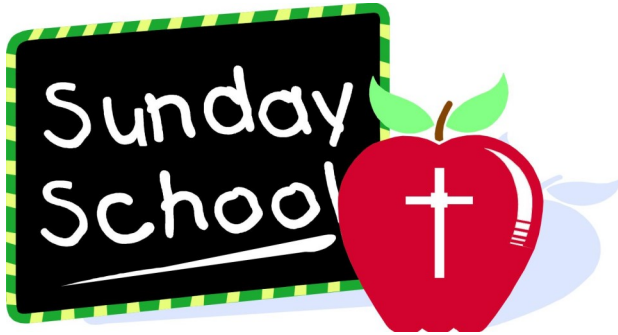


December Highlights

1st Communion
4th K-5th Grade Event
9th UP Home Communion
11th PW Circle
16th Blood Drive



17th Finance
18th Church Family Event
18th Session
22nd Children's Christmas Program
24th Christmas Eve
25th Christmas
31st New Year's Eve



Class Structure for 2024-2025

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

Please have all donations and pledges turned into the office by Dec 27th, so that they can be recorded for 2024.

Krystle will be on vacation Dec 23rd and 24th



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



Please have receipts for the church turned into the office no later than December 20th

United Youth

Middle School
Sundays, 3:30pm @ UP Church

United Youth

High School
Sundays, 6:30pm @ UP Church



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
5 Emma Alderton
5 Jim Buitendorp
7 Lois Holland
9 Katie McWhirter
12 Barry Johnson
13 Lisa Buitendorp

14 Josh Anderson
20 Sarah Robison
21 Joe McConnell
21 Alexandria Oliveria-Kurth
24 Sue Reed
26 Erin Thorius
28 Krystle Moore

28 Alecia Goff
29 Dorothy Koehler
30 Emory VanGerpen
30 Lorraine Williams
31 Jayse Thorius





Blessings We Gave:

Our UPC Halloween Indoor “Trunk and Treat” event was once again a huge hit!

Kids could wander around the games and activities in their cute costumes and they could have hot chocolate and parents could enjoy that too . . . or coffee!

We were a recent blessing to the Washington Optimist Club who used our church for their annual Election Night Pancake supper.

We are a blessing to the Tuesday Morning Moms who meet for fellowship and study in our library or lounge and whose little kiddos enjoy our nursery.

Blessings We Received:

Tyson Foods in Columbus Junction donated a semi of pork loins to Darren Brown of Master’s Hand. Darren, in turn, made this gift known to others and Pastor Erin took 20 of these huge pork loin packages for us to offer to our Saturday Kitchen hosts to prepare for their guests on “their” Saturday.

We’re blessed Christy Buchholz shared her wonderful creativity once again in 2024. She decorated the south bulletin board in a lovely and welcoming Thanksgiving theme. It’s such a gift for Christy to give her time and talents on this important project that so many of us and our visitors enjoy and appreciate. Thanks again, Christy!

We’re blessed to have so many wonderful church family members who serve in so many ways, whether serving as an elder or an office volunteer, whether teaching Sunday School or keeping our walks clean, whether helping with a Celebration of Life meal/reception, or working as a sewer/quilter, or whether participating as a committee member or in so many other ways, each of you is a blessing. Thank you to each person in our church family, where we all Love God and Love Others.



Welcome Team Thanks 2025 South Entry Bulletin Board Makers

We on the Welcome Team thanks each of the following people: Jane Cuddeback, Angie Frost, Christy Buchholz, Kathy Hunt, Jessica Canny. Each of them helped create a beautiful, south entry bulletin board last year and they willingly agreed to serve again in 2025. How special is that!!

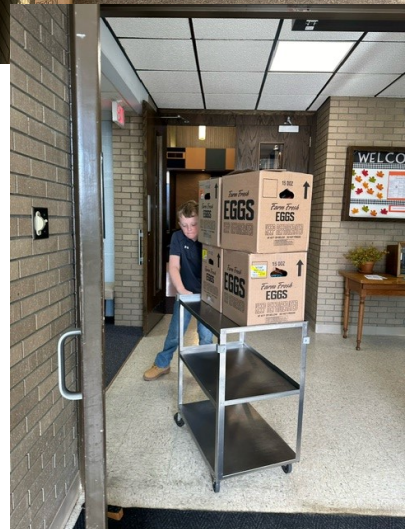
And, speaking of special, Angie Schluetter and Tricia Whisler also agreed to work together on a bulletin board in 2025! We on the Welcome Team are so grateful to each of these talented and willing church family gals. They share their time in creating a bulletin board that is not only attractive, but also inspirational and welcoming. Thank you Jane, Angie, Christy, Kathy, Jessica, Angie and Tricia once again!!

Welcome Team: Teresa Andeson, Barb Brown, Christy Buchholz, Marde McConnell, Angie Schluetter, Rita Schonhoff, Pam Vongpanya, Tricia Whisler



HACAP Boxes

The veggie battle was a huge success! We collected over 600 cans of veggies! We packed 116 boxes of food for HACAP to distribute with in our community! Great job everyone!





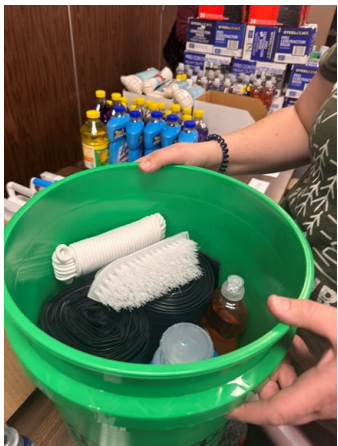
Friendsgiving

Fun was had by all that attended! Pizza, pie, crafts, and fellowship were enjoyed!



Disaster Bucket Packing

We packed 30 buckets! Thanks to the Miles family for all of their work in helping to organize this!



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 * No Youth Group * Scavenger Hunt Starts
2	3	4 * After School Event K-5th	5	6	7	8 * MS Youth Group * HS Youth Group
9 * Christian Education Meeting	10	11	12	13	14	15 * Christmas Dinner High School * MS Youth Group * Scavenger Hunt Ends
16	17	18 * Church Family Event Everyone	19	20	21	22 * Christmas Program * Christmas Party Middle School * HS Youth Group
23	24 * Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27	28	29 * No Sunday School * No Youth Group
30	31					



Harvest Fun K-5th Grade Event

16 kids came and had fun learning about God's love, doing crafts, having snacks, and playing games.





Saturday Kitchen Update: All 2024 Hosts Returning!

We will have 30 host groups in 2025, all who help us serve 80-90 guests a delicious meal on their Saturday or Saturdays! It's true, there are 30 host groups, with a few working together. We are so blessed that EVERY 2024 host group committed to serve again in 2024! How very affirming that each of these groups sees the need for the Saturday Kitchen and is willing to reach out in caring to those in need in our community. Thank you, UP Church Family, for helping us serve our guests and host the Saturday Kitchen each week.



Joe and Marde McConnell, Coordinators

We host Dec 21st

We joint host Dec 28th



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. We have also been asked if able to donate gender neutral if possible pants and underwear in sizes 5-10 and gift cards to Wal-Mart to purchase items like snow pants and boots. 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

UPLIFT Freezer Meal Prep Postponed until a later date



If you would be interested in this in the future please let Krystle Moore or Brenda Miles know.



Food Boxes donated to HACAP in
2024:

520



The end of Oct represents 83% of the year. Our income came in at 63.34%
Our expenses came in at 86.93%



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