



February 2025

LET ALL
THAT
YOU DO
BE DONE
WITH
LOVE.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 NKJV



Church Contacts

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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,

I subscribe to quite a few daily inspirational emails, and today's, written by Reverend Cameron Trimble, was too good to keep to myself. He writes,

"Do you know those moments in life that suddenly take your breath away? Moments when time slows, and you're overcome with awe, gratitude, and love?"

This morning, as I went through my usual routine—letting the dogs out, making coffee, preparing breakfast—I glanced out the window and saw something so ordinary yet extraordinary that it stopped me in my tracks. My golden retriever, Harper, tail wagging and face grinning, was trotting down the driveway, her joy radiating against the stark beauty of the bare winter trees and the blue sky. She had just finished her morning patrol of our 10-acre homestead. She was coming home to report that all was well.

I confess, I love this dog more than is reasonable. It was the combination of my love for her and my joy in seeing her joy that caught me. But for just a moment, time felt suspended. The simplicity of it all—the quiet morning, the crisp air, Harper's uncontainable happiness—washed over me. I felt the kind of awe that brings tears, the kind that makes you whisper, *Thank you*.

Moments like these remind us that life is sacred, even in its most ordinary rhythms. Philosopher and theologian Howard Thurman once wrote, *"Whatever may be the tensions and the stresses of a particular day, there is always lurking close at hand the trailing beauty of forgotten joy or unremembered peace."* Awe opens us to that trailing beauty—to the presence of Sacred Love woven into the fabric of the everyday. So much in our world can feel chaotic and uncertain, but awe has a way of re-centering us. It reminds us that beauty is still here, joy is still possible, and God's presence can be found in the smallest, most unexpected places.

Perhaps this is why so many spiritual traditions speak of wonder as the gateway to transformation. When we pause long enough to notice life's beauty, we make space for God to move. Awe softens our hearts, expands our spirits, and reminds us that life is both fragile and extraordinary.

As we move through our days, may we not rush past these holy moments. May we let them stop us, surprise us, and remind us of the gift of being alive."

As you go through your day, I invite you to consider the following questions:

When was the last time you felt awe? What did it teach you?
How can you cultivate more moments of wonder in your daily routine?
What ordinary beauty around you might you be overlooking?

Blessings,
Pastor Erin



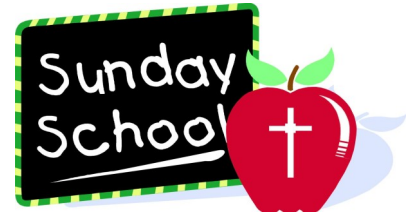


February Highlights

2nd Communion
3rd UP Home Communion

5pm Worship Meeting
6:15pm Welcome Meeting
5th K-5th Grade Event
5th PW Circle

10th CE Meeting
13th Blood Drive
14th Valentine's Day
17th Sewing Day
18th Finance
19th Church Family Event
26th Session



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

United Youth

Middle School

Sundays, 3:30pm @ UP Church

High School

Sundays, 6:30pm @ UP Church



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
14 Scarlett Schwenk
20 Lincoln Kleese
21 Annagrace Goeke
22 Alice Martin
23 Amanda Burke
27 Erik Buchholz
28 Abigail Kleese
28 Bev Young
28 Ed Lins
29 Travis Shelman



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



Family Ministry

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Wednesday February 5: After
School Party (Grades K-5)

Wednesday February 19 : Family
Gathering (Everyone)



COMING SOON: VBS

We are beginning to plan for our VBS for
this Coming Summer.

We are looking for people to help plan and
promote the VBS. we are looking for 3-4
to help with the planning. Talk to Dan or
email upfamilyministry@gmail.com

CONTACT INFO

Dan Frost

Upfamilyministry@gmail.com

(319) 653-6588



VALENTINES THOUGHT

In the book of I John we are
commanded to love one another
as Jesus has loved us. The
reason behind this command is
because God is Love. When we
are demonstrating love for
others we are demonstrating
God to others. Let us remember
that Loving others is a
demonstration of God's love.



IMPORTANT DATES

March Wednesday 5: After
School Event

May 5; Confirmation
Sunday

May 11; Senior Sunday

VBS June 22-25





Kids are you going to Church Camp this summer?

The church will pay half of the tuition for a Christian Camp

For example: Crooked Creek or Camp Bear Creek
Contact the office for more information

2025 Session Members

Class of 2025
Roger Miles
Carrie Septer
Katie Lujan
Julie Johnson (clerk)

Class of 2026
Nick Shelman
Rick Bordwell
Cyrus Andrews
Tanya Stalder

Class of 2027
April Cuddeback
Christy Buchholz
Tork Whisler
Tracy Strabala

Session Member Spotlights

Christy Buchholz:

I am a medical technologist at the Iowa City VA.

My husband Erik and I have two daughter's Kaitlin and Jessie.

I love to ride my bike, vacationing, and cooking.



Katie Lujan:

I'm blessed to have 3 daughters, Isabella (17), Olivia and Sophia (both 13).

I've been an attorney at Washington Law Office for 23 years.

Work life and mom life keeps be very busy; I enjoy when I have time for extended family and travel.





BLESSINGS WE GAVE:

We were a blessing to kids at HACAP, Stewart and Lincoln Schools with our Mitten/Hat Tree items. Thanks to our generosity, over 50 items were collected! There were gloves, hats, socks, vests, sweaters and more – even a little one's coat. Thank you, Church Family, for loving others and especially the needy kiddos in our midst.

We were a blessing to several HACAP families who received Christmas gifts, thanks to the caring of our Church Family members.

We were a blessing to the families of those having loved ones fondly remembered at our All Saints' Day Worship service. Helping to make that even more special and complete is our Krystle Moore. She made sure there were photos for everyone recognized and that all families were contacted about the All Saints' Day date. We appreciate Emily Septer's role as candle lighter during this special, memorial time, too.

BLESSINGS WE RECEIVED:

We were blessed to have Judy Wertz, Bonnie Bender, and Isabella Lujan as our youth deacon willingly serve and have retired as Deacons. They reached out in our U.P. Church Family's name to those in need of our caring and love. Thanks, gals.

Andy McCall, Teresa Anderson, and Halle Cuddeback also blessed us with their service as Elders. Teresa served as the chair of our very busy Mission Committee, Andy capably served as the Finance Chair, and Halle served as the youth elder. Thank you for your time and talents, Teresa, Andy, and Halle.

So many church family members and friends shared their performance talents during the Christmas season and we're grateful to each: Tom McNamar directed the bells and helped us enjoy that sound once again. John Harris added his special trumpet playing. Cory Canny so capably sang and played his guitar. Ginny beautifully played the piano and we all praised God for the birth of his son.



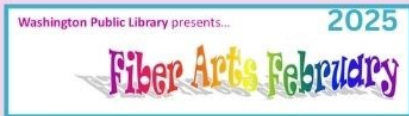
Thank you, Sunday School kids and adults!

Despite some inclement weather, which hampered practices, the kids' December Christmas program was meaningful and special. The little ones carried their gold stars and sang We're Following the Star. The elementary and some middle school kids portrayed the Christmas story, complete with costumes. Then the high schoolers and some middle school kids gave a shadow box performance of the nativity, too. With Christmas carol singing by all, it was a special worship service.

Thanks to all the adults and kid performers who helped to make "it" happen.

Many Hands Make Light Work – Thanks All!

Following worship on Sunday, Jan. 5, so many of our church family stayed after worship and helped take down the Christmas decorations. There were kids of all ages and adults of all ages, too! Thank you, Everyone, for helping make a big job get done quickly!



QUILT WALK



View quilts by our community artists and Marykay Hymes.



Thursday, February 13 from 4 - 7 pm
Friday, February 14 from 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday, February 15 from 10 am - 1 pm

THE UP CHURCH
209 E. MAIN ST.



ART DOMESTIQUE
118 S. IOWA AVE.



WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
115 W. WASHINGTON ST.



Pick up a map and your ticket at any of the three locations. Get your ticket punched at all locations for a chance to win a quilt!

#3

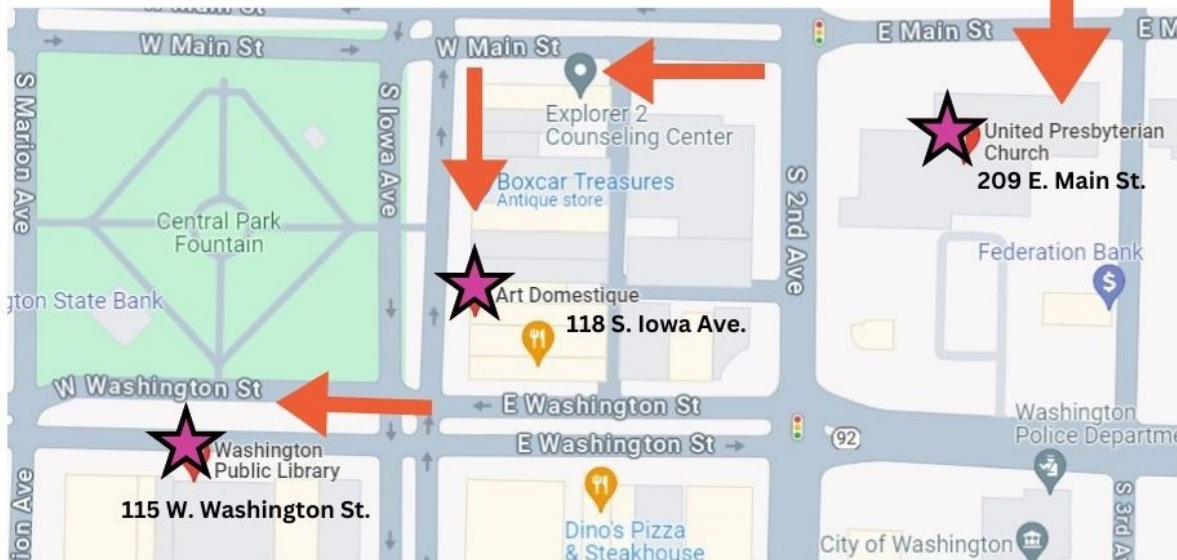
LAST, head west
Washington Public Library
115 W. Washington St.

#2

Next head west, then south
Art Domestique
118 S. Iowa Ave.

#1 START HERE:

UP Church
209 E. Main St.



Washington Public Library presents...



Washington, Iowa

★ = QUILTS

Pick up a ticket to be punched at each location for a chance to win a quilt.



We host on the dates listed throughout the year:



June 7th
 June 21st U.P. Pathfinders' Sunday School Class
 Sept 27th
 Nov 1st UP Youth, Fareway
 Nov 29th U.P. Families of Faith Sunday School Class
 Dec 20th
 Dec 29th Joint Hosts

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Mitten Tree another success! We collected about 50 items to share with the local schools and HACAP/Headstart.

The Mission Team

Dear U.P. Church,

Thank you very much for the winter apparel. Our students here at Stewart School will benefit greatly from your thoughtful donations. We appreciate your kindness and support.

God bless,
 Stewart Staff

To the Congregation of the UP Church,

Thank you

Thank you so much for your donation of gloves and hats to the students of Lincoln Elementary. What a wonderful community we live in!



Thanks,
 Lincoln Staff

PW Circle Meeting

PW Circle has changed the location of their meetings to the UP Home in the lounge on the 3rd floor of Kerr Hall at 10am on the second Wednesday of the month. We will still be having a Bible Study. Everyone is invited to join us. We meet from September to June and take a break in July and August.



Food Boxes donated to
 HACAP in 2025:

65

Sewing Day

Feb 17th 9am

We will be doing flag repairs for the Veterans Memorial Park along with quilt work.



The end of Dec represents 100% of the year. Our income came in at 87.33%
 Our expenses came in at 102.43%



Articles for the March Newsletter are due Friday, February 21st