



UP Church

Love God. Love Others.

February 2026

Ash Wednesday Prayer for Peace Service

**February 18th
6:15pm
in the Sanctuary**

**Join us earlier for
dinner at 5:15pm
(free will offering)**



Church Contacts

P.O. box 32
209 E Main St
Washington, IA
319-653-6588
Upchurch.org

Scan for
Church Website



Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8am-12pm Office open
**The phone is answered during
the following hours:**
Monday-Friday 8-12pm
Monday-Thursday 1-4pm

Donate through



venmo

Staff

Pastor Erin Kaye
pastorerinkaye@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Krystle Moore
upsecretary@gmail.com

Organist
Virginia Bordwell
Virginia@washingontitle.org

Youth Coordinator
April Cuddeback
upwashyouth@gmail.com

Youth Curriculum Coordinator
Cory Canny
upwashyouth@gmail.com



Friends,

Sometimes self-care hurts. It's something we're supposed to do, but it isn't always easy. On February 2, I will have an outpatient surgery to remove a spot on the side of my tongue. This spot was first noticed about 3 years ago by my dentist, and was removed by an oral surgeon and biopsied - thankfully it was not cancerous. The dentist referred me to the University of Iowa dental clinic, and they have been keeping an eye on it ever since. Late last year the doctor decided that the spot had returned and grown enough that it needed to be removed as a safety precaution. This is self-care. It is good. However, having this superficial part of my tongue removed is going to hurt. Lots. I know this, and we have taken precautions to help with rapid healing - medications will be taken and the Session has approved a week of medical leave to give me time to heal. During that time, I will rest quietly at home and take my medicine. I am thankful to Erik Buchholz who agreed to lead worship on February 8. Hopefully I will be near the end of recovery then, and the current plan is that I will return to the office on Monday, February 9. I am also thankful for the leadership of our Session, who understand the importance of self-care, even when it hurts and is inconvenient.

Please take care of yourselves! It is not always easy, but in this month of love I invite you to remember that God loves you, and God encourages you to care for yourself as a fearfully and wonderfully made creation!

Blessings,
Pastor Erin



Tithes & Offerings

worship through giving

venmo

@UPCWash
Please enter in the memo what it is for.

**OTHER
WAYS TO GIVE**

WEBSITE: upcwash.org
MAIL: UP Church
PO Box 32
Washington, IA 52353



February Highlights

- 4th Jam Kids
- 9th CE Meeting
- 12th Blood Drive
- 13-15th M.S. Quake
- 16th Sewing Day
- 17th Finance
- 18th Ash Wednesday
- 18th Jam Kids
- 18th Praise Cafe
- 25th Session



During Worship In February

- 1st Communion
- Annual Meeting
- 8th Erik Buchholz Preaching
- 15th Erik Buchholz Preaching



Class Structure for 2025-2026

8:45am

- Birth-4yo Preschool: Upstairs in the Nursery
- Kindergarten-5th Grade: Downstairs in Son City
- 6th-8th Grades: Middle School Room
- 9th-12th Grades: Youth Room
- Adult Classes Offered:**
- Pathfinders: Chapel
- Families of Faith: Lounge
- Coffee Group: Fellowship Hall



- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 6 Ethel Moothart | 20 Lincoln Kleese |
| 7 Grace Schiebel | 2 Annagrace Goetze |
| 8 Ellen Twinam | 22 Alice Martin |
| 9 Terry Anderson | 23 Amanda Burke |
| 10 Teresa Anderson | 27 Erik Buchholz |
| 11 Luke Schiebel | 28 Abigail Kleese |
| 14 James Strabala | 28 Bev Young |
| 14 Phil Kleese | 28 Ed Lins |
| 17 Brian Strabala | 29 Travis Shelman |



Our website: <http://www.upcwash.org/>

Other ways to connect:

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/channelaozuqohexe93npq2xjr> 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.



UP CHURCH FAMILY & YOUTH NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday School

We have rung in the new year with a new unit in our Sunday School program. We learned about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in our first unit of 2026 and will be covering Gideon in our next unit.

A big thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help with our kids. Your time and energy are very much appreciated!

Coming up, we have the Families of Faith covering Sunday School February 15 - March 1st, but then could use some extra helpers for a couple of units following that. Let cory know if you can help.

Sundays 8:45 - 9:45 am

JAM Kids

We continue to enjoy our Wednesday afternoons at JAM Kids. We now have approximately 30 elementary kids registered for our program and enjoy all of their energy and their inquisitive nature!

If you know of someone who would like to join us, please let us know! JAM Kids meets the **1st & 3rd Wednesdays** of each month **3:30 - 5:15 pm**.

Youth Groups

Our youth groups are back in full swing after the new year. The middle school group will be attending Quake in the Wisconsin Dells February 13-15. Our kids have been great at inviting other youth and we will take a group of 15 middle schoolers and 4 adults for the 3-day weekend!

The high school group will soon be looking to work out details of the annual summer mission trip and the mission market to support that endeavor. Please continue to keep this group in your prayers as they discern where they will best be used and that our students accept this opportunity to serve others.





Family Movie Night

The Worship Committee is planning a family movie night Friday, February 20th 6:00 – 8:30 pm. Watch for more details coming from that group!



CONTACT INFO

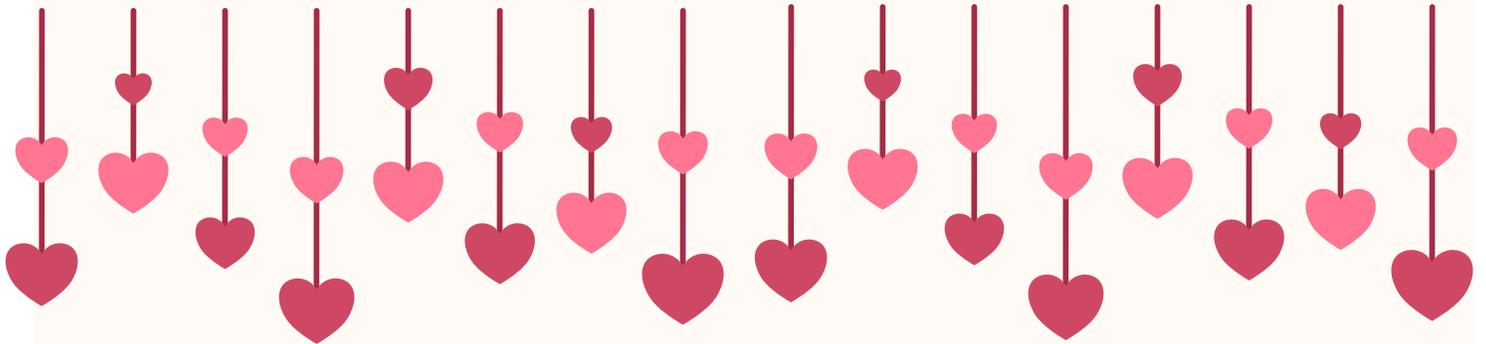
upwashyouth@gmail.com

Cory Canny, Youth Curriculum Coordinator
319.576.8391

April Cuddeback, Youth Coordinator
319.591.0859

Upcoming Events

- Feb 1: MS Youth Group 3:30 pm
HS Youth Group 6:30 pm
- Feb 4: JAM Kids (3:30 – 5:15 pm)
- Feb 8: MS Youth Group 3:30 pm
HS Youth Group 6:30 pm
- Feb 13: Quake - Wisconsin Dells
-15 Middle School
- Feb 15: HS Youth Group 6:30 pm
- Feb 18: JAM Kids (3:30 – 5:15 pm)
Praise Cafe 5:15 – 6:00 pm)
- Feb 22: MS Youth Group 3:30 pm
HS Youth Group 6:30 pm



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





We Host on the dates listed throughout the year:



- April 4th
- June 13th
- July 4th Joint Hosts
- Sept 5th Pathfinders Sunday School Class
- Oct 3rd UP Youth
- Oct 24th Families of Faith Sunday School Class
- Nov 28th
- Dec 29th Joint Hosts

December 20TH /27TH Saturday Kitchen Events - Wonderful for Guests and Hosts

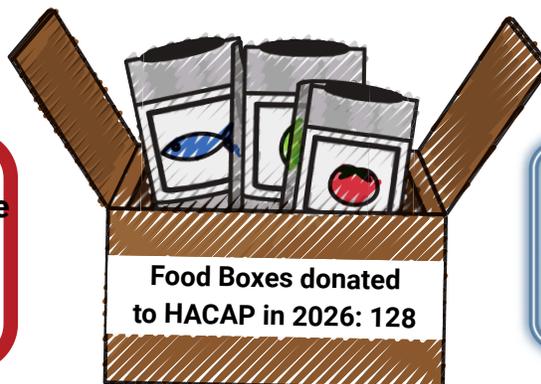
The last two weeks of the December Saturday Kitchen were great! We wish each of you in our church family could have been there to see and hear the appreciative responses from our guests for the Christmas meal on Dec. 20th. We served ham, cheesy potatoes, rosy applesauce, fresh veggies, grapes and brownies for dessert.

Then on Dec. 27th our New Year's Pizza Party was exceptionally well-attended (about 90 guests) and a fun time was had by all! We were so grateful for the donation of 5 pizzas from each of these establishments: Dino's, Lebowski's, Pizza Hut, Pizza Ranch, Casey's East and West. We also served fresh veggies and fruit - and our guests loved making their own ice cream sundaes for dessert.

As coordinators of the Saturday Kitchen, we tend to take the most "complicated" dates. While many of our "regulars" were unable to help us on the 20th and 27th, you, our UP Church Family stepped up! We received phone calls from many of you offering to help, our prayers were answered! Thank you, UP Church Family volunteers and your commitment to Love God and Love Others and support the Saturday Kitchen.

If you want information about the Saturday Kitchen or how to be a part of this outreach serving and Loving Others, even if in a very small way, please contact one of us: Joe McConnell 319-461-1449 or Marde McConnell 319-653-3884

**The end of Dec represents 100% of the year. Our income came in at 82%
Our expenses came in at 89%**



Articles for the March Newsletter are due Friday, Feb 20th

CAMP BEAR CREEK

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP



WHO: ANY AGE!
WHAT: SERVE OTHERS, GROW FAITH, BUILD CONNECTIONS
WHEN: MARCH 18-21
WHERE: WYOMING, IOWA
COST: \$50 PER ADULT (KIDS ARE FREE)



REGISTER ONLINE AT
UPCWASH.ORG
DEADLINE FEB 21

Blessings We Gave:

We were a blessing to kids at Stewart, Lincoln and the Middle School with our Mitten Tree items. Thanks to our generosity, over 93 items were collected! There were gloves, hats, socks, mittens and more! Thank you, Church Family, for loving others and especially the school kids in our midst.

We were a blessing to our nearly 50 friends at Autumn Park Apartments and about 25 other individuals who received our Christmas care packages. Each package was lovingly delivered by you, church family. Not only were the care items an unexpected gift, so was the visit!

On Christmas Eve we were a blessing to workers from the City of Washington Police Dept. and the Washington County Sheriff's Dept. Each received goodie boxes following that lovely service and family reception time.

Blessings We Received:

We have been blessed for several years to have Bonnie Bender and Connie Jarrard prepare the elements for communion each time throughout the year. This is a big commitment and we're so grateful for their willingness to serve in this way. Additionally, Brad Alderton is gracious enough to make our communion "bread squares." Thanks, Bonnie, Connie and Brad!

We were blessed to have had John Harris share his musical talents with us in December. We're so grateful for his talents and his sharing them with us!

We were blessed to have had a wonderful children's Christmas program and . . . one practice week was lost due to bad weather!! Thanks to all the many adults who helped prepare for the program and help the kids. Thanks ALSO for all the kids from the nursery and pre-school little ones through elementary, middle school and high school. It was a truly special program celebrating the birth of Jesus.