



United  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of Peoria, Illinois

# The Chimes

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Peoria, IL



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**PICNIC IN THE PARK**

**FALL KICK-OFF**

*music | food | games*

Saturday, August 27th  
11:00am-2:00pm  
Bradley Park

The poster features a central title 'PICNIC IN THE PARK' in large, bold, black letters. The word 'IN' is in green, and 'THE' is in smaller black letters above a green tree icon. Below the main title is 'FALL KICK-OFF' in bold black letters, followed by 'music | food | games' in a smaller, italicized font. The background is a blue sky with white clouds and falling autumn leaves. At the bottom, there are three stylized trees on a green hill against a white background.

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Bob McDowell

Ethel Moore

Diane Morrill

Stephanie Murray

Henry Noetzel

Steve Nordvall

Eugenia Ofori

Nathan Pennington

Eddie Sandlin

Randy Saxon

Don Serup

Sherry Shedenhelm

Deb Sullivan

Jude Thom

Dale Warren



Sgt Scranton, Joseph



Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower the church.



Interested in joining United Presbyterian Church?  
Contact a pastor or visit our website at: [www.unitedpc.org](http://www.unitedpc.org).

## To Fight Monsters

When Steven Moffat took over as head writer and executive producer of the long-running British Sci-Fi franchise *Doctor Who*, he was asked if he believed fairy tales still had power.

*Do fairy tales still have power? Well, look at the movies that have been made. Yes they do.*

*But when I say "fairy tale," a better way of saying it would be "modern fairy tale." It's not that [Doctor Who is] like the old fairy tales, or that it resembles them, it's the modern equivalent. It's the way we teach our children that there are things in the world that might want to eat them. [Doctor Who] just feels like a fairy tale: A man who fights monsters but never becomes one.*

(From Charlie Jane Anders i09 interview of Steven Moffat on 5/18/10)

We have our fair share of monsters in our lives, or at least monstrous behavior. I don't believe anyone is truly a monster, because we are all made in the image of God, but monstrous actions, choices, beliefs, and desires are all around us. We may not run from Weeping Angels, Daleks, goblins, trolls, or white walkers, but we have to live in fear of the neighbor with a gun who has a grudge or sickness, the fanatic that has access to a hardware store to make a bomb, the misguided and selfish boys who would take advantage of a girl's temporary weakness, and the bullies who feel good about themselves when they can exert their power or dominance over another human. There are monsters. They don't live in the dark forest or in a world far away; they live down the street.

We need the stories of someone who fights the monsters, but never becomes one, because we are faced with that temptation every day. It is so easy to fight fire with fire. It is so tempting to demand an eye for an eye, a life for a life. But how can we rid the world of monsters if we are constantly transforming ourselves in their image?

I remember after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 how much I wanted to just march into Afghanistan or Iraq or anywhere really, and just blow things up. I wanted to cause someone the pain we as a nation were caused. I think many people felt that way. Toby Keith certainly expressed it in his song *Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue*. Do you ever feel that way? After all these shootings and terrorist attacks, did a part of you want to cause that same kind of pain to the shooter? Has the monstrous ever come out in you in the presence of all these monstrous acts we endure week after week?

We need the great fairy tale: the great myth become fact. We need the Gospel. Jesus defeated the monsters in our life without becoming one. He stayed true to his identity in God. He loved. He had compassion, and suffered with us. He spoke the truth. He challenged the monsters without becoming monstrous. He didn't take on the form of power, or revenge, or pain. He didn't take the form of military might or monstrous fear. Instead, Jesus took the form of a servant. Jesus took and held the form of love and mercy and hope and in doing so transformed the monstrous cross into a place of grace. The cruciform way challenges the monstrous without living like monsters.

Today, the church is called to tell stories. We tell the stories of a man who fights the monstrous without becoming one. We tell the stories of a savior who is with us and for us. In the midst of all this pain and darkness and fear, we can tell stories. We can also live the stories we tell. That's the role of the church today. We are called to fight the monsters of fear, division, prejudice, violence, hate, and pain without becoming a monster in the process. We do that by following Jesus and his example. Perhaps we, too, through the power of Christ, can transform the monstrous into grace and love. That's our hope. That's our faith.

In Common Calling,  
Pastor Stephen

### The Problem with Parables

We are studying the parables in the Gospel of Luke during the Thursday morning Bible Study. I thought that as we studied the parables and that I would open scholarly commentaries and we would understand “The Meaning” of the parable and we would all be smarter. James Whitehead says “*Faith is the enduring ability to imagine life in a certain way.*” (*my underline*). I thought that the parables would point us to “that certain way.”

There is a problem with parables. The problem is: there is not one meaning, one application, one way. The parables are fictional stories which are to awaken our imaginations to new understanding. But that is the problem; that by opening the door to imagination, the possibilities of its application is endless. Like this parable:

“No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old garment; otherwise the new will be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, ‘The old is good.’” (Luke 5:36-39)

As anyone who heard this parable would know, a new piece of fabric will simply not work as a repair to an old because it will rip away. New wine cannot be in old wineskins because they would not have the elasticity to hold the fermenting expansion of the new wine. One application meaning is an answer to the question. “Why don’t the disciples fast?” (Because don’t fast and pray for Messiah to come, when Messiah is here.) Yet, its bigger than that. It also fits with John’s description of being “born again of water and the Spirit,” and Paul’s statement that we are “New creations in Christ, the old has gone.” The applications for new to replace old seems to be endless.

So, I continue to be haunted by this parable. Lord, what am I trying to patch? Where am I trying to put old into new? How are you calling to me to surrender the old and put on the new? It is leading me in a new way of seeing—*“a way of living—that requires a certain loosening of the grip, a willingness to be surprised, confused, amazed by the undreamt of ways that God chooses to be revealed to us.”* (Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Preaching Life*.)

Rev. Taylor also says “*Wittingly or unwittingly, we human beings are driven by our images of ourselves, of other people, of God and the world—images that come to us both from within and without.*” We come by our images honestly. I hear on the news that another has taken the path of destroying another. Yet, another has seen some “unholy” other as the problem. Applying the principle of Parable: New images of self and others requires a surrendering of the old images of self and others.

So, perhaps it ties into another parable of trying to take the speck out of another’s eye, when quite comically, I have a log in my own (Luke 6:41-42). You and I need to first admit where you and I are not loving our enemies. We need to examine where we too are acting first as judge of another. Identify where we are holding onto old images, instead of seeing others through the lens of love, God’s love. Until we see ourselves as part of the human problem, and choose to surrender to the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2) we cannot begin to envision a solution. The unrest in our world today is challenging you and I to NEW ways of loving, because the evidence of old patterns of thinking, now emerging into the light, are not working. The old ways are not holding the love patch, and cannot hold the new wine of love according to the greatest commandments.

The parables: they are a problem. A problem because they open all kinds of possibilities, including how we are to become new in how we love one another.

May the Grace and Peace of Christ be the lamp to our path in all ways,  
Patricia

## Stewardship & Finance

### What Will Be Your Legacy?

As Christians we rejoice with faith in the resurrection. Yet we also know the passage from life to death can be stressful on those who survive us.

You can ease some of that stress by acting now to put your estate plan in order. Who will be executor of your estate? Who will decide how your personal treasures are distributed? In addition to their own grief, can you imagine your loved ones struggling to find life insurance papers, bank accounts and other vital documents?

By creating a legal will or living trust, you can provide your next-of-kin with a peace of mind, knowing that you have already determined how your estate will be distributed and who will care for minor children. They will still grieve, but they won't face the daunting task of making decisions that you could have made.

A will also provides an excellent opportunity to remember United Presbyterian Church. A member recently called us to let us know she wanted to leave half her estate to UPC. That will make such a huge impact on ministry here for years to come! Whether that gift helps us pay off the mortgage, start new mission initiatives, make needed capital improvements to the building, or create or improve ministries, it will help us grow and nurture followers of Christ in a welcoming community.

A gift to the church through your will serves as a testament to your heirs of your faith in God and the resurrection. It provides you with one last opportunity to exemplify what it means to be a good steward, providing for others as God has provided for you during your lifetime. What a blessing you can be to future generations!

Drawing up a will is a simple process, but make sure it is done right. By using expert advisors, such as attorneys and financial planners, your wishes can be honored after you are gone.

## News and Notes

You may have seen on the news or online about the new phenomenon that is Pokemon GO. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world are playing the augmented reality game with their phones, and that includes here in Peoria. UPC has several stops for the game on our grounds, including "gyms" where people train their Pokemon and battle for control of the digital space.

In the past couple weeks, we've seen an average of one hundred people driving through our parking lot and walking our grounds. Since part of our mission is to be a welcoming community, we wanted to welcome these new people to our church. We set up a tent with snacks and water for players to enjoy while they explore our grounds. We've also collected names and emails to communicate with players about some prize drawings we will have and sponsored events like Pokemon trading parties and competition. This is one way we can engage our community, especially millennials and youth, who are coming to our church campus for the first time.

Word has already gotten out about how welcoming we are. Last week, when WMBD was doing a story on the game down at the river front, some of the people they were talking to told them about our church and what we were doing so WMBD came right up to include us in their story.

I recently post in a Peoria message board inviting people to come to UPC to play and take advantage of our hospitality station. I wanted to share a few of the comments people have left in response.

*"All these places complaining about people coming to hunt Pokemon and you guys host a gathering. Outstanding. Thank you."*

*"This church is always doing great stuff around town- like the Peace for Peoria events that they are involved in."*

*"Thank you so much for this. I walked around your church's lovely grounds today, admiring the flowers and greenspace."*

We also received this letter:

*To everyone that helped organize the pavilion, snacks and drinks. I would like to say thank you so much! I have been running all around town chasing fictional monsters and this is the only place to offer refreshments free of charge. I have been by your church at odd times of night, during the day and in the evening and it is a real hotspot that almost always has someone playing this silly little game. I am looking forward to coming by and catching 'em all at your church. Bless you.*

Todd DeWitt

## Worship & the Arts



### The Messengers: The Prophets Speak Then and Now

This month we finish our series on the prophets by hearing from some of the minor prophets. The prophets often had hard messages for Israel, but they always proclaimed God's truth and love. The prophets challenge us, inspire us, and encourage us. We hope you'll join us to hear God's word through them.

#### Sunday Worship

**August 7:** "A Basket of Summer Fruit"

Amos 8:1-7 Pastor Stephen

**August 14:** "Wait, It Will Surely Come"

Habakkuk 2:1-4 Pastor Stephen

**August 21:** "How Can I Give You Help?"

Hosea 11:1-11 Pastor Patricia

**August 28:** "Our Refiner and Fuller"

Malachi 3:1-14 Pastor Stephen

#### Community Choir

If you have any interest in singing, please consider participating in the Community Choir this summer. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month at 9:00am to learn an accessible anthem which we sing during that Sunday service. You do not have to read music or be a trained vocalist to be in this ensemble! It is a wonderful opportunity for younger kids and adults to sing together and share this gift with the congregation. The next date for Community Choir is August 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Aaron Schultz (aschultz@unitedpc.org) for more information.

#### Weekday Worship

We join together with the residents at Independence Village on Tuesday August 9th and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Activity Room at Independence Village. UPC members are welcome to attend as we sing hymns and hear a message from Pastor Patricia alongside Independence Village residents. We are the church without walls.

#### New Advent Wreath Being Made

UPC is in need of a new Advent wreath this is big enough to fit in the space of our large sanctuary. Our own master woodworker Jim Pugh has volunteered to make us a beautiful new large wreath on a stand. It will match the rest of the wood in our sanctuary and elements of it will tie in with the features of our pulpit and baptismal font.

Since our new wreath will be much larger, we will need new oil candles for the wreath. We'll need four blue candles and one large white Christ candle.

These candles are expensive but will last for the next twenty years. This is an unbudgeted expense, but one that will help us have a beautiful hand-made unique Advent wreath for generations to come. The total cost of the wreath and candles will be about \$1000, which is much cheaper than buying a wreath of this size. If you would like to make a contribution to help fund this beautiful new addition to our sanctuary in Advent, please let Pastor Stephen know, or send any donations to the church and mark them "Advent Wreath." Thank you and a special thanks to Jim Pugh for sharing his talent with UPC.

#### Support Local Artists in Upcoming Event

Peoria has an arts scene that is picking up in momentum. There are galleries and studios popping up downtown. First Friday's has become an accessible and fun way to meet artists and enjoy viewing their work, and new artists are emerging. However, there seems to be a gap between emerging artists and available platforms to show their work.

A local artist and I met for coffee one day to discuss this. We decided that we wanted to form a community of artists and patrons of the arts designed to create a shared network for artists as well as advocate for ways to support emerging artists in Peoria. A few months ago we had our first meeting, and it was so encouraging. We had about 15 artists attend from around the community and they were able to share their concerns, dreams, and ideas about how Peoria and the church can become better supporters of artists who haven't "made it" yet on the arts scene.

# Worship & the Arts Continued

## Ways to Get involved in Worship and Arts Ministry

There are many ways that you can get involved with the worship and arts ministry here at United Presbyterian Church. If any of these are of interest to you, please contact Aaron Schultz (aschultz@unitedpc.org).

- **Music Ensembles**-If you are interested in music, you could become an active participant in a variety of ways: Singing in our Chancel Choir or Worship Band, playing bells in the Handbell Choir, or playing instruments in the worship band, small instrumental ensembles, or the Celtic Ensemble.
- **Worship and Arts Committee**- The Worship and Arts committee meets once a month on the second Tuesday at 6:00pm. This group functions both as a think-tank but also as representatives of the congregation to make decisions centered around the worship life of the congregation.
- **Audio and Visual Technology**- If you are tech savvy, consider joining our Audio/Visual team. This group of volunteers runs the camera, computer, and sound board for all of our Sunday services. We are always looking for new people to join this team.
- **Help assist in Sunday Worship** – As you may have noticed, many voices from the congregation are heard leading worship on Sunday mornings. If you would like to read and don't mind reading in front of people, consider being a liturgist for Sunday worship services.
- **Visual Arts in the Church**- We try to incorporate visual arts in worship, whether that is with installations, banners, or projected media. If you are a visual artist yourself, or simply have an interest in visual art, this may be an area for you to get involved.

# Health and Wellness

## Eating a Rainbow

During VBS, the Health and Wellness team spent an evening talking about nutrition. We challenged the kids to “Eat a Rainbow”. We talked about foods that were naturally colored all the colors in the rainbow and then played a game that combined strawberries, orange juice, bananas, spinach and blueberries to make a “rainbow smoothie”. 95% of the kids gave the rainbow smoothie two thumbs up, and over half the kids asked for seconds!

Why is ‘eating a rainbow’ important? Fruits and vegetables get their color from naturally occurring micronutrients—such as vitamins and phytonutrients—which are extremely important for good health. These vitamins and phytonutrients include beta-carotene, lutein, lycopene, and vitamins A, C and E. Eating a colorful range of foods (or eating a rainbow) helps you get them all naturally in your diet.

Stumped on how to “eat a rainbow” beyond smoothies like the VBS kids made? The following are a few ideas to get you started:

- Make a tropical rainbow fruit salad with fruits of each color: oranges, pink grapefruit, mango, papaya, kiwifruit, bananas, and purple grapes.
- Sauté your own medley of mixed vegetables using each color: red onions, carrots, corn, jicama, broccoli, and black beans.
- Try a spinach salad with dried cranberries, canned mandarin oranges and red onion with your favorite vinaigrette.
- Make fruit-sicles: Puree your favorite fruit such as melon, peaches, banana, and/or berries with 100% fruit juice. Freeze in ice cube trays or paper cups or popsicle molds for a refreshing treat. Use fresh, frozen or canned.
- Make a dried fruit and nut mix for snacks. Include dried apples, apricots, cranberries, peaches, pears, cherries and mixed nuts.
- Pizza for breakfast? Top a toasted English muffin with tomato sauce, a scrambled egg and fresh spinach. Add grated mozzarella and melt.

For more information check out  
[www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org)

Kirsten Tharp RN, BSN

Parish Nurse

## Christian Education

# adult **t** classes

### **Sunday 9am Education Hour Does Not Meet During Summer Months**

Sunday 9am classes resume on Sept 11. Details will be revealed at the Summer Picnic in the park.

### **Thursday Mornings at 10:00 am**

Jesus' teachings and parables in the Gospel of Luke with Pastor Patricia. **No Class on August 11.**

### **Wednesday Night Connecting Point**

Wednesday meals and classes and music rehearsals **resume on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>**. We will kick off the season with a presentation by Pastor Stephen. He will be sharing the highlights of his Sabbatical to Scotland.

#### **Important Changes:**

1. This years Adult class, and parent group will begin at 6:15pm.
2. And the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month will be Family Game night! Bring your favorite board games, dice or card games and all ages are invited to have an evening of fun together immediately following the 5:30pm meal.

### **Introduction to UPC and Presbyterianism Class**

UPC is offering a Sunday morning class for those who have recently joined the church, are interested in joining the church, or who want to learn more about UPC and what it means to be a Presbyterian. This will be a three week class to teach you more about what it means to be Presbyterian, what the Presbyterian Church believes, and how the Presbyterian Church is governed. You will also learn more about the history, present, and future of UPC, and what it really means to be a member of a church. The classes will be the first three Sundays in August at 11:30am in the Heritage Room (room 107). Please let the church office or Pastor Stephen know if you plan to attend.

### **Parents of College Age Children Group**

#### **Now Forming**

Sending our kids off to college is a big change and we think it is important that we have support. We are working to form a new group of parents whose children are in or entering college to provide some time to talk, support one another, pray together and even make some care packages to send on to our loved ones. If you are interested in a group like this, please contact Donna Selling at dselling85@gmail.com.

## Youth Christian Education

### **Children's, Middle & High School Education Hour** **None for the Summer**

#### **Children's Sunday School**

##### **Holy Moly Ages 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

Children will be escorted from worship after the Time for Young Disciples upstairs to the Sunday school rooms for Holy Moly. Holy Moly follows a four-part sequence: Discover, Relate, Connect, and Create. Each week, kids will watch and animated Bible story video, talk about the story, read their Bible, and will be encouraged to journal their observations. It is a wonderful curriculum that you are welcome to observe anytime!

If time and weather permits, we may end class on the playground for pick up.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade and Up Sunday School**

We will be continuing "ECHO THE STORY" and going deeper into the Bible stories we have been told repeatedly as children.

## QUEST Youth Groups

**August meeting times will be sent out VIA email and the bulletin. If you are interested in youth group, Email Karen Miller at [karen@unitedpc.org](mailto:karen@unitedpc.org) to receive weekly youth updates. This will give you access to the most current youth information.**

## Church Life

### UPC Summer Picnic, Saturday, August 27

The annual UPC summer picnic returns on August 27, 11:00am-2:00pm at the Lower Bradley Park pavilion. We provide the chicken, you provide the side dishes. If you have talked with anyone who attended last year's picnic, then you know what a good time was had by all; Human Foosball was the highlight of the picnic. Tim Cole constructed a frame in which humans (young and old alike) can kick the ball and score goals in the same set-up and manner as the popular Foosball Table game. Human Foosball will be returning this year by popular demand. (This does take some construction set-up and take down. Volunteers are needed at 9am to set up, and at 2pm to take it down.) Please contact Tim Cole, or church office to help make this a success once again.

In addition we will have live music, horseshoes (last year someone you all know and love got a double ringer!), and there is a playground nearby for lots of kid fun. Come join the fun!

### Bus Trips

Mark your calendars for our fall bus trip on Sept. 10 to Fulton, IL. Fulton is on the Mississippi River and its claim to fame is an authentic operational Dutch Windmill. In addition to Windmill tour we will visit the Martin House Museum and the historic downtown area to learn more about the Dutch heritage and its influence in their community. Another planned stop is Heritage Canyon and an all-important lunch stop at Krumpets. The cost for transportation and tours is \$12. Bus departs at 7:30am from UPC. Sign up and pre-pay in the church office.

### Eating Together

Men's Breakfast: August 11th at 9:00am at Le Peep

Local Lunch: August 22nd at 12:00 pm at Kabab G off Pioneer Parkway and Sommer in the shopping center.

Ladies Night Out: August 18th at 6:00pm at Granite City, East Peoria. RSVP: Eunice @ 688-8458 or Betty @822-8500

Thursday Lunch Bunch: August 24th, at 11:30am at Red Lobster.

### Softball

The UPC Co-Ed softball team that plays at Northminster Presbyterian Church on Monday nights is enjoying a spirited and competitive season. Through seven games we have a winning record at 4-3, including a 3 game winning streak. We had great participation, with a nearly full roster for all games, even with a few players committed to VBS. We did have one season ending injury, but she doesn't require surgery. We also had a dramatic last at-bat, "walk-off home run" victory in our latest game. Please come out to cheer us on if you can and see the fellowship and camaraderie in person. We have 4 games remaining in the regular season, then a single elimination tournament starting Saturday, August 20.

Upcoming Games, Aug. 1@6:30 pm; Aug. 8@7:15pm; Aug. 15@7:15pm.

### Rummage Sale

Thank you to everyone who donated items and who bought items! And a big thank you to Charlotte Cronin, Nancy and Terry Thompson, Carol Kamrath and numerous other volunteers who contributed to the success of the sale! Many thanks!

### Fantasy Football

It's almost football season! UPC will have two fantasy football leagues again this year. We will have an online draft league and a league with a live draft at the church. If you were in a league last year, be on the lookout for an email inviting you back to the same league you were a part of the year before. If you didn't play last year, but want to play this year, please email Pastor Stephen at [revmcwhit@unitedpc.org](mailto:revmcwhit@unitedpc.org).

### Thanks

The Church Life Committee would like to thank the folks who donated funds for shelves for the Church Life closet. And thanks to Bob McDowell, Gary Stalnaker, and Alan Lonn for assembling them. We now can easily store and locate all our stuff! Many Thanks!



## Church Life Cont'd

### UPC Hiking Group

Tuesday Aug 2, 6:00pm  
Springdale Cemetery(meet at the Cemetery entrance)

Saturday Aug 20, 7:30am  
Bus trip to I&M Corridor near Peru (meet at UPC)

Wednesday Aug 24, 6pm  
Parking lot behind Jonah's, East Peoria,  
Dinner after at The Galley

Thursday Sept 8, 6pm  
Rock Island Trail,  
Alta Trailhead across from Sheridan Nursery

Saturday Sept 24, 8am  
Robinson Park Trailhead on Mossville Road

Tuesday Sept 27, 6pm  
Pekin, details yet to come

We tend to hike varied terrain; some less strenuous, some more strenuous. Would you like to join in the hiking fun?  
Contact Pastor Patricia or Alan Lonn.

## Prayer Circle

We pray for the healing hand of God be upon our friends in need of healing: Jan Wagner, Steve Nordvall, Bob McDowell, Lois Hultgren, Bill Bunker, Don Serup, Mary Everett, Venisa Brown, Larry Stotts, Marilyn Umdenstock, Papa Shornick (father-in-law of Laurie Pryde), and Robert Deppermann. And may our compassionate God grant comfort and strengthen our friends: Sandie Martin, Jack Dixon and Corda Jones, and comfort and strengthen the family and friends who are grieving for: George Neal.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

A prayer shawl is a comforting and healing gift to our friends in time of need. A diagnosis of cancer is one of those times. We would like to have some shawls in pink for Breast Cancer, grey for Brain Cancer, purple for Pancreatic Cancer and Lavender for all cancers. We will bless them during Sunday worship in October, Cancer Awareness month.

## News and Notes

### God's Natural World Photo Contest

Nature Connections Committee and Worship and Arts are jointly sponsoring a photo contest. Photographs must capture God's Natural World or people connecting with God's Natural World and must be taken in the outdoors of the property. Photos must be taken between February 1, 2015 and February 1, 2017. An Exhibit will occur in February. The photos may include people but must also include nature or wildlife. Prize categories include Professional, Preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school and adult. On August 14, a Photographing Nature Class will be held to introduce nature photography to preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Bring a digital camera or other digital photographing device. Parents or grandparents are welcome to attend!

### Tai Chi Donations

Atsuko Cummins, Midwest Branch Location Coordinator informed us of a donation from the Tai Chi Society of the USA in the amount of \$558.75. They also donated 116 items to the church food pantry from January to June 2016. As always, we truly appreciate your support and understanding to the Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA. Atsuko Cummins

### Newspapers in Education

Dear United Presbyterian Church

I want to take a minute and thank you for adopting a school as part of our Newspapers in Education program. We at the Journal Star appreciate your support for this wonderful education endeavor.

Thanks to you, and other local community leaders, we will be able to provide newspapers for students and teachers in local area school. As a token of our appreciation, you will receive a series of ads, in our Newspapers in Education page we plan to run during the school year, and we will be sending you a Certificate of Appreciation that is suitable for your office or lobby.

Again on behalf of all the participating schools, teachers, students, and the staff of The Journal Star, a sincere thank you.

Angie Lyons

Newspapers in Education Supervision

# Mission

## Mission of the Month: Common Place

This month we are going to work with and support Common Place. We will be collecting school supplies for Common Place all month long. A box to receive the supplies will be next to the Snack Pack donation area. We will welcome a guest from Common Place on August 21<sup>st</sup> who will share with us about Common Place's mission in worship. We will also welcome a speaker from Common Place at Connecting Point in September.

## Snack Pack Help Needed

We begin filling Snack Packs for the students of Northmoor Elementary on the fourth Sunday of every month starting in August. We need help on each one of the fourth Sundays to fill the bags, but we also need two people who would be willing to help organize the snack pack materials and select what is put in each bag for each week of the month and provide needs for the shopping list. Pastor Stephen will give you a tutorial on the system and there are instructions and guides in a notebook. If you're interested in making this part of your ministry to your neighbors, please talk with Pastor Stephen.

## Lifelines to Syria

Last fall around 40 members of the congregation packed the library as we discussed how to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis. The group felt an immediate financial response was warranted through our "Lifelines to Syria" campaign to assist those living in refugee camps. But the group felt strongly that an additional long term component was needed and we felt called to provide support and form a personal relationship with a family relocating to our community. For many months the Mission Committee has been searching and praying for this missing piece and asking for God to guide us in our efforts.

We are excited to announce a partnership with Northminster Presbyterian to assist in relocating a refugee family to the Peoria area through World Relief. We will be a community guide and friend as they adjust to their new life in America. There are many ways you can help in this endeavor from donating items for their home, welcoming the family as they arrive at the airport, providing transportation to medical appointments, serving as an ESL tutor, or answering their questions about living in Peoria. The Mission committee will be providing more details about specific needs as well as the training hosted by World Relief for interested volunteers. In the meantime, please reach out to Jenna Hague at [Jenna.L.Hague@gmail.com](mailto:Jenna.L.Hague@gmail.com) if you are would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we prepare to live our mission of being a welcoming and nurturing community.

# News and Notes

## Next Church Conference

Next Church is a national organization of Presbyterians who work together to envision the future of the church and help guide the church into that future. We are hosting a regional conference at UPC on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, so we'll be hosting people from around the Midwest and from around the country. The conference features New York Times Bestselling Author and popular speaker, Nadia Bolz-Weber

Members of UPC are welcome to attend the whole conference which includes workshops and round table discussions for \$50 or just attend Nadia's two keynote addresses for \$15. We also will need volunteers to help with the event. Volunteers will get to attend for free. We need help at the registration table, setting up for lunches and our round table conversations in the Fellowship Hall. We'll need help preparing and setting out snacks, and showing people around the building to find their workshop classrooms. If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Stephen.



## Thanks

We wish to express our deep appreciation for all the sympathy and support extended to us upon the passing of our father and husband George. Thanks for all the cards, memorials, and food, and the efforts of the bereavement ladies. Special thanks to the tremendous staff and ministers at UPC for all their help throughout. Gladie, Doug, and Curt Neal