

United
Presbyterian
Church
of Peoria, Illinois

The Chimes

A publication of United Presbyterian Church
Peoria, IL



Volume.14 Issue.3 March 29, 2017

Holy Week and Easter Worship Opportunities

Sunday April 9

Palm Sunday Worship Service - 10am

VIVID - 4pm

Friday April 14

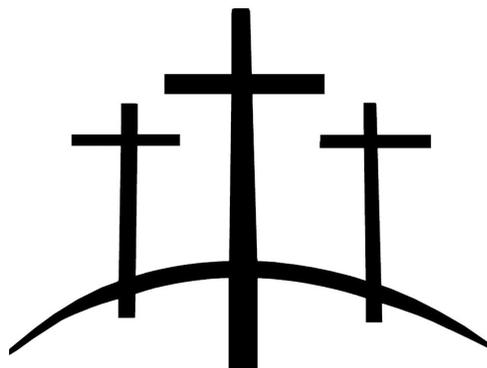
Good Friday Worship Service - 7pm

Sunday April 16

Sunrise Worship Service - 6:15am

**service will be held at Upper Grandview Park*

Easter Worship Service - 10am



In this issue:**Page 2**

Those in Uniform
Website

Prayer List

Page 3

Message from Pastor Stephen

Page 4

Message Cont'd
Member Care
News and Notes

Page 5

Worship & the Arts

Page 6

Worship & the Arts

Page 7

Health & Wellness
Stephen Ministry

Page 8

Christian Education

Page 9

Mission

Page 10

Church Life

Page 11

Church Life Cont'd
Stewardship & Finance

Page 12

Youth Groups
Children and youth

Page 13

Mission Trip T-Shirt

Page 14

Meet Your Deacon

Insert

News and Notes
April Calendar

Church Leadership**Session**

Laurie Hartshorn, Clerk of Session

Class of 2017

Mike Brown
Rich Helm
Betty Pugh
Colleen Rouzer
Jim Sullivan

Class of 2018

Jenna Hague
Mark Hanson
Linda Kelley
Ralph Krall
Cindy Shipley

Class of 2019

Charlotte Cronin
Mary Jo Mays
Alicia McKeighan
Megan McKeighan
Kathy Nordvall

Board of Deacons**Class of 2017**

Derrick Amanor
Brenda Barrett
Kay Covey
Debbie Hanson
Pam Harrison
Kathy Hasselberg
Jeri Maher
Jan Mooberry
Kathy Nixon

Class of 2018

Victoria Best
Marcia Boyer
Rose Dickerson
Vicki Ghidina
Angie Gross
Laurie Hartshorn
Michael Kelley
Ron Kirchgessner
Charlene Mousty
Sandy Nott
Rose Schmollinger
Trudy Sholtz

Class of 2019

Theresa Bender
Ken Krancher
Pam Madden
Sue McGill
Lilli Nettell
Rick Noetzel
Deb Paul
Nancy Pogue
Myrna Schwarz

Session Committee Liaisons

Church Life
Hospitality & Growth
Christian Education
Human Resources
Member Care
Mission
Properties
Stewardship & Finance
Worship & the Arts
Preschool

Charlotte Cronin
Linda Kelley
Cindy Shipley
Colleen Rouzer & Alicia McKeighan
Mary Jo Mays & Jim Sullivan
Jenna Hague
Rich Helm
Mike Brown & Megan McKeighan
Mark Hanson
Kathy Nordvall

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.

Why The Cross?

We are rapidly approaching holy week, and looming over the drama of Palm Sunday is the shadow of a cross and the critical issue of why, in the name of God, would Jesus do what he did. Why would God, who we believe is present, incarnate, in the life of Jesus, why would God become so involved in such a messy, political, potentially violent event, an event of human pain and suffering and death? Why the cross?

We are Easter people, we Christians are, but we live in a Good Friday world. Many have said that. We know what it means. Easter is coming, but not until Good Friday. Innocent people suffer, suicide bombers kill civilians, precious young soldiers die, babies come with heart defects, tests come back positive, relationships sour and die, children are sold into sex slavery—it's a Good Friday world.

Do we have to talk about the cross? Can't we just focus on the positive, uplifting parts of the story, the love and grace of God, the mercy and forgiveness, the acceptance and pardon? We'd like to; we try, frankly. But, Fred Craddock writes,

Sooner or later somebody is going to say to you, "Then what happened to Jesus?" And when you tell them the truth, that he came to the city as a 33-year-old young idealist and stirred the city and the city turned on him and just like that put him on trial and executed him, some people are going to back away. Can't we just leave that part out? Focus on the positive? People aren't interested in a man who dies like that. It's a terrible growth strategy for the church, all that, morbid suffering and bleeding and dying.

Craddock describes a big California megachurch that told the architect for their new building, "We do not want any crosses, either outside or inside. None. We don't want anybody to think weakness or failure!"

Jesus "emptied himself," St. Paul wrote. He "took the form of a slave, became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross." In Jesus Christ, God, that is to say—remarkably—God emptied God's self for us, to come as close as it is possible to come to us.

Fred Craddock, who is not only simply one of the best preachers but also scholar and teacher of preaching, writes with an elegant simplicity. He describes that most-common human occurrence: a child falls down and skins a knee or elbow and comes running to mother.

The mother picks up the child and says—in the oldest myth in the world—"Let me kiss it and make it well." . . . She picks up the child, kisses the skinned place, holds the child in her lap, and all is well. Did her kiss make it well? No. It was that ten minutes in her lap. Just sit in the lap of love and see the mother crying. "Mother, why are you crying? I'm the one who hurt my elbow." "Because you hurt," the mother says, "I hurt." That does more for the child than all the bandages and medicine in the world, just sitting in her lap."

Pastor's Message Continued

"What is the cross?" Craddock asks. "Can I say it this way? It is to sit for a few minutes in the lap of God, who hurts because you hurt" (Cherry Log Sermons: Why the Cross?).

Something profoundly true is happening on Palm Sunday as our Lord enters the city and with great courage and a holy intentionality lives out the last days of his life as one of us, betrayed and denied by friends, unjustly tried, suffered, died. Something tragic, but way beyond tragedy, something terrible and awesome and beautiful beyond description is happening. Something the truth of which we know in our hearts—something about love becoming vulnerable, love exposing itself to heartbreak, something about the voluntary long-suffering of any love worth the name, something C. S. Lewis meant when he said, "To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will certainly be wrong and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give your heart to no one" (The Four Loves, p. 111).

We are approaching Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday—this holiest of weeks in which Jesus suffers and dies—is God giving God's own heart to the world, to you and me and every one of us.

And so whatever else you do that week, which on the surface is no different than any other week, find a way to pause and ponder and stand a while beneath the cross of Jesus and, with the faithful of all the ages, to see

*The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me:
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness.*

In common calling,
Pastor Stephen

Member Care

Prayer Circle:

We pray for the healing hand of God be upon our friends in need of healing: Jaxson Harper, Steve Wrigley, Jim Weinkauff, Mike Davis, Marilyn Umdenstock, Connie Knoblauch (sister of Judi Beck), Lilli Miller (Lois Hultgren's granddaughter), Steve Clark (Sabrina McGrath's father) Ryder Armstrong (Trish Deppermann's friend), and Elaine Gustafson (Donna Selling's mother).

Please pray that the Lord of Life and Love comfort and strengthen the family and friends who are grieving for Margaret Hochstrasser and Grace Bossingham. We thank God for the gift of their lives.

Deacon Quarterly Meeting Reminder

The next Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Deacons will be Saturday, April 8th, at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. The Visiting Deacons will meet for training in Room 100 at 9:30am. Please make every effort to be present. If you cannot attend, make sure to turn in your Quarterly Report to your Parish Coordinator or leave it in Kathy Nixon's box in the Volunteer Office.

News and Notes

Lenten Invitation Challenge

"Only 2% of church members invite someone to church. 98% of church-goers never extend an invitation in a given year."

BE 1 OF THE 2

Participate in the Lenten Invitation Challenge by inviting someone to worship with you at UPC

Anna Circle

Thursday, April 13th at 5:00pm. Meet at Weaver Ridge. Lesson: Chapter 12, Unveiling Mary Magdalene. Mission of the month: Share the Warmth Blanket Ministry; next workday is April 22nd at 9:30am.

Worship & Arts

Good Friday

Please join us for a special Good Friday worship service at 7:00pm on Friday, April 14th. We will give praise to Christ for his victory of death on the cross, but also mourn and lament the violence he suffered, and many around the world are still suffering. We will particularly remember those in Peoria who have died due to violence in the past year. On Good Friday, we remember and mourn suffering, but also proclaim that pain and violence no longer have the final word.



Easter Sunrise

Join us at Upper Grandview Drive Park to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ through worship at 6:15am. We'll have coffee and donut holes ready when you arrive. All are welcome to join us.

Lent Sermon Series

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth that the Gospel Ministry is a "treasure we hold in clay jars." This is a metaphor that resonates because we all know how fragile faith can be. We know how fragile Christians can be. One of the wonders of grace is that God continues to be found among the weak and fragile of faith. God's treasure is carried in clay jars, meaning God's beauty can show up in our brokenness. It's good news. I hope you will join us to hear it.

Eastertide Sermon Series- Life Together: Christ in our Relationships

When Europe was falling apart in the 1940's, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a little book called *Life Together*. It was an exploration of the fundamental "neighborly" or communal aspect of Christian faith. Sometimes we say that the love of Christ shows up in our hearts. A better way to say that is the love of Christ shows up in our relationships. We are part of many communities: family, church family, national community... the list goes on. Paying attention to this fundamental truth of Christian faith is what gives our faith energy and hope. But, because people are people, it is also why we need to time and again remind ourselves that Jesus calls us to love our neighbor.

April 23- Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25, Phil. 2:1-8 To Be Human Is to Be Together

April 30 Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Romans 12:1-5 Better Together

Sunday Worship Schedule - April 2017

April 2

Luke 21:1-7, 22:14-20 "Broken For you"
Pastor Stephen

April 9 (Palm Sunday)

Mark 11:1-11; 12:13-17 "The Symbol of a Broken Nation"
Pastor Stephen

April 16 (Easter Sunday)

Mark 16:1-8, 2 Cor 4:7-12 "What Love Does"
Pastor Stephen



Worship & Arts

Why Do We Do That?

Worship at United Presbyterian Church is always changing because people, time, and circumstances are always changing. We have a foundational liturgical structure that remains intact, but specific components of the liturgy are always in flux. As leaders of the church, we try to balance creative change with upholding tradition and any changes we make are done so carefully and thoughtfully as to protect this delicate balance.

Over the past (almost) three years since I have been at UPC, we have made some changes to Sunday worship and I have tried to communicate through conversation and articles why these changes have been made. To set up a platform for future communication, I want to have the title of this article be a re-occurring one that unpacks a rationale for any given change in the Sunday worship gathering. For this month, I would like to focus on why we started doing the song of illumination.

As liturgists and worship planners, we like to talk about the “arch” or “trajectory” of a service. Every liturgy has a shape in terms of how it flows. The energy increases and decreases and things happen of smaller importance and greater importance. There are two important heightened moments of the liturgy; the receiving of the Word and the receiving of the Sacrament of Communion. Both of these liturgical acts function as a “means of grace.” In other words, God is present in a unique way during these two events. The service of the Word and the service of the Table are two pillars of the Christian experience.

During communion the pastor says a lot of words before the gathered take the Elements. There is a prayer of thanksgiving, a prayer of consecration, and the words of institution. During the prayer of consecration the pastor asks the Holy Spirit to be fully present in the elements of communion. This both acknowledges that God shows up in a special way during communion and communicates the need for the gathered to depend on the Holy Spirit’s guidance for proper participation in the Meal.

The prayer/song of Illumination is to the Word what the prayer of consecration is to the Table. The prayer/song of illumination asks the Holy Spirit to be with those gathered in a special way in order for them to properly hear and absorb the Word of God proclaimed and preached. This prayer/song also elevates the importance of God’s Word in the liturgy. It effectively communicates how important God’s word is to the nourishment of God’s people.

This is one of the main reasons why we have started adding in the song of illumination. If you have any questions about this addition or any feedback, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Aaron Schultz

Sunday, April 9 - 4pm

VIVID

a worship experience

interactive. intergenerational. illuminating.

VIVID Worship on April 9th

VIVID is an intergenerational worship service that values hands-on activities, intergenerational community and collaboration, and an informal environment to promote relationships. VIVID stands for the kind of worship experience we hope to create: Interactive, Intergenerational, and Illuminating.

Join us for VIVID on Palm Sunday, April 9 (2nd Sunday of the month instead of the 1st) where we will hear about the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem through story, song, art, prayer, and drama a 4 PM. At 5pm, we will join together for a sandwich/wrap and salad bar full of goodies to meet all dietary needs as well as those picky eaters.

Health & Wellness

National Healthcare Decisions Day: April 16

- Have you discussed your end of life wishes with your family?
- Have you discussed your end of life wishes with your physician?
- Do you have a named Healthcare Power of Attorney? Is it in writing?
- Do you have Living Will?
- Does your physician have a copy of your Living Will?

If you answered to NO to any of the above questions then April 16 is for you! National Healthcare Decisions Day is a national initiative to encourage adults of all ages to plan ahead of a health crisis. No adult is too young to think about this. Making decisions ahead of time and putting your wishes in writing brings peace of mind to families. It helps to avoid the difficult situations that are so common when a person becomes seriously ill and the family is left to guess what their loved one would have wanted.

UPC would like to help you with this sometimes challenging and difficult discussion. I can help you with the paperwork and have forms on hand. I am also happy to discuss with you what some of the medical jargon means and help you arrive at the best healthcare decisions for you, as well as how to have the discussion with your family.

Kirsten Tharp
Parish Nurse

Grief Gathering

UPC will be hosting a gathering for those grieving the loss of an adult child on Friday, April 7 at noon. We will share in a light meal, get to know one another and share some tips on coping with loss. Contact the church office to sign up by Wednesday, April 5.

Stephen Ministry

Have you ever wished that someone would just listen to you?

That is exactly what Stephen Ministers do. The men and women who are Stephen Ministers will listen, give you their undivided attention, won't judge you, will keep everything you say in confidence and will pray with you. They are people from our congregation who are trained and organized to help provide Christian care-giving to members of our congregation.

Here are some comments from people who have received the caring ministry of a Stephen Minister.

- I'm so glad I accepted my pastor's offer to match me with a Stephen Minister.
- I was reluctant at first, but my pastor was right; having someone I could regularly meet with and talk to really did make a difference.

I was able to tell my Stephen Minister things I could never have told a friend. She never judged me or looked down on me. She just listened and cared. It was just what I needed.

Seven Stephen Ministers received 50 hours of training here at United Presbyterian Church in 2013. These men and women multiplied the amount of caring ministry that United Presbyterian Church could provide. Because of changes in life situations, four of our Stephen Ministers have become inactive which leaves only two women and one man to carry on this ministry.

We are excited that Stan Strickler will be attending the one-week Stephen Series Leader's Training Course in St. Louis in April. When he returns, we will be offering a class for new Stephen Ministers. If you are interested in learning about Stephen Ministry or would like to be a Stephen Minister, please speak to Pastor Stephen or Linda Fortin, Stephen Leader. Visit www.stephenministries.org/SM to help determine whether you would like to respond to Jesus' love by showing that love to others and be involved in this caring ministry.

Christian Education

Sunday Education Hour at 9:00am

Strange Book of Books Class (Library Room 106)

Due to the success and interest in the Strange Book of Books series that the Thursday Morning Bible Study is doing, Pastor Stephen is offering the class on Sunday mornings.

As opposed to many studies, which focus on particular books of the Bible, or on a specific theme, this 10 part series steps back to ask questions about the way we read scripture. Many Christians are accustomed to reading scripture in a devotional mode, looking for a personal message they find spiritually uplifting. While this can be valuable, it has the potential drawback of making the Bible overly familiar, domesticating its diverse and complicated content into something immediately applicable to each individual life. This series will reveal things about the Bible you may never have heard before and help you see the Bible with fresh eyes and fresh faith.

Journey Through the Bible (Heritage Room 107)

This Bible Study group, led by Don Baker, is dedicated to growing in knowledge of God through what is revealed in the Bible. We interpret the stories for their relevance then, and seek to understand their relevance for today. Each participant receives a workbook. Bring your Bible, or use one of ours. The class is currently studying the Books of Jeremiah and Lamentations.

Followers Book Discussion (Sewing Room 105)

The class is continuing to read and discuss *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things The Bible Doesn't Say* by Adam Hamilton. They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.

Join the group in searching for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés to the message and ministry of Jesus. The clichés include:
 Everything happens for a reason.
 God helps those who help themselves.
 God won't give you more than you can handle.
 God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
 Love the sinner, hate the sin.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

We are almost finished with our series "Strange Book of Books." As we finish the series we will begin to dive deeper into your questions about the Bible, stories that have always confused us, interesting topics, and your questions. You won't want to miss it.

Connecting Point

Connecting Point is every Wednesday Night beginning at 5:30pm. You can join us for a meal at 5:30pm (a donation of \$5 is suggested to help with the cost of the meal). We have activities for children, nursery, a parents' small group, and a class for adults starting at 6:15pm.

Alexis Presseau Maloof and Courtney McKinney-Whitaker will lead Connecting Point during Lent. We will follow a study designed for Lent by the Church of Ireland that addresses Biblical perspectives on Gender Justice and what that means for our world today.

April 5: Power, Abuse, Victimhood, and Mutuality (2 Samuel 13, Ephesians 5:10-13, 21-33)

April 12: Destitution, Determination, and Inspiration (Ruth 1 and 4, Galatians 3:23-29)

After Easter, Anna and Randy Saxon will lead a class the last two weeks of April.



Eleven Minute Lessons

Eleven Minute Lessons continues each Sunday at 11:11am in room 107 with an in-depth study of Genesis. We are beginning to study the story of Abraham this month.



Mission

Needs at Northmoor Elementary

Pastor Stephen recently met with the Principal at Northmoor Elementary to discover any pressing needs of the school and students, and ways that UPC could help. We currently provide Snack Packs to 40 students a week there, and they are grateful, but they do have some pressing needs.

They need volunteers who will commit to coming once a week to read with students (mostly second graders). These students not only need help with their reading and practice reading out loud to gain confidence, they also need positive and consistent adult mentors in their lives.

The school also needs outdoor play equipment like outdoor basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, hula hoops, etc. With recent budget cuts at the state level, the school can't provide these desired items. But even more importantly, the Principal shared a desire to have volunteers come and play with the kids at recess. Many of the children have never really learned how to play. They don't know about taking turns, sharing, or the rules of many games. They would love someone to come once a week or once a month to play with the kids and lead them in some games.

These are just two ways you can make a big difference to students in our community. If you are interested in being a reading buddy or a recess buddy, please let Pastor Stephen know. We'll also be collecting outdoor play equipment all month long. You can bring your donations to the Food Pantry closet by the bathrooms in the Fellowship Hall.

Snack Packs

We will fill Snack Packs on April 23rd after worship in the Sewing Room. We need donations of 100% juice boxes, fruit snacks, peanut butter crackers, fruit cups, and granola bars to help make sure our snack packs get filled.

Foster Family Lunch

We will be hosting our annual lunch for local foster families on Saturday, May 20th. Please reach out to Jenna Hague at jenna.l.hague@gmail.com or 630-386-0245 if you are interested in volunteering to assist with setting up, serving lunch, or working with children's activities.

Hands-On Mission Opportunity

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  **Midwest FOOD BANK**

Last Thursday of the month
Feb- April

Meet in the church lot at 5:30pm

The UPC Youth will be volunteering with the food bank and invite any adults that would like to join us. A great opportunity to get to know our youth by serving our community. Contact Karen Miller if you are interested.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Projeto Amar

Each year during Lent, we collect funds to help our partner Learning Center in Brazil: Projeto Amar. Projeto Amar provides a safe and stable learning environment to children who need stability, education, and the love of God and teachers in their lives. Due to Brazil's economic troubles, Projeto Amar has had funding cut. We are their only overseas partner, too. In order for them to continue serving all the children in their program they need our help. This year, we are raising funds to help meet their budget shortfalls so they can continue to employ teachers and meet the needs of children. Our goal is to raise \$4000. You can give by marking your gift OGH or Projeto Amar on your check or on your offering envelope. Thank you.

FOOD ON THE FOURTH
Sunday, April 23

Don't forget to bring food for the children to collect on April 23rd. Donations will be given to local food pantries.



Church Life

Easter Egg Hunt

Church Friends! We need volunteers to help with the Annual UPC Easter Egg Hunt on the morning of Saturday, April 15th. If you are interested, please look for the sign up sheet in the church narthex or talk to Charlotte Cronin. 309-253-4276 or charlottecronin@comcast.net. We also need more donations of individually wrapped pieces of candy to fill the eggs. Please bring your donations to the church office by April 9th. THANK YOU!!



April 15, 2017 - 9:30-11:00am

EASTER EGG HUNT

all are welcome

over 4,000 eggs to be hidden!

Ages 1 - 10am
 Ages 2-3 - 10:15am
 Ages 4-5 - 10:30am
 Ages 6-9 - 10:45am

UPC Bus Trip



Come and see...
 Dickson Moun ds, Big Horse
 Vineyards, and Emiquon Wildlife Refuge

Sat. April 1

8:30am depart time, Return at 4:00pm

\$10 per person - Contact Trish to reserve spot

Bus Trip! We Have Planned Another Trip.

Please join us for the fun and Fellowship as we head to:

- Lincoln's New Salem near Petersburg, IL (It is Antique Farm Show Day at New Salem)
- The Morning Star Merchantile & Café in Salisbury, IL (for lunch, gift shop on your own)
- Lincoln Heritage Museum at Lincoln College in Lincoln, IL (Cost is \$7.00 per person, includes an audio tour)

Saturday, May 6th

Depart UPC at 7:30 am, Return at 5:00 pm

Cost \$17.00 per person (10.00 for bus and 7.00 for museum)

Church Life Cont'd

Eating Together

Men's Breakfast: April 13th at 9:00am at Le Peep

Local Lunch: We will eat at Famous City Bistro on Monday, April 17th at 12:00pm. They have classic dishes from across the country.

Thursday Lunch Bunch: We will eat at Avanti's on Rockwood after Bible Study on April 27th.

Games

Hand and Foot: April 7th at 6:30pm.

Game Night: On Wednesday April 26th, join us for our last Game Night during Connecting Point.

Candy Donations and Egg Fillers Needed for UPC Easter Egg Hut

We are collecting individually wrapped candies in the church office to fill eggs for the hunt. Your donations are appreciated.

We will fill eggs Sunday, April 9th after the worship service. Please meet in the gym. We have 4000 of them to fill and many hands make light work.

WIC Moss Avenue Sale—June 10, 2017

WIC will be accepting items for the Moss Avenue Sale on:

Saturdays, March 25, April 29 and May 20 (9am to noon)

Thursdays, 9am to 2:00pm (by arrangement)

In addition if you need to drop off on a different day during the week, please contact Pat Fynn at 253-7030 to make other arrangements. Items that we are accepting are vintage/antique, holiday, household, jewelry, toys, books and misc. We will NOT be accepting electronics, VHS tapes, clothes, or bed linens.

ALL PROCEEDS from the sale go to WIC for operational expenses. A flyer may be seen on the south bulletin board for more information.

Stewardship & Finance

EasyPledge

One way you can help UPC through your giving is to sign up for EasyPledge. We can mail you a form or you can pick one up in the church office at anytime. Give us a call and we'll walk you through the very easy process.

This is Larry.

Larry uses EasyPledge at Church.

Larry's gift is automatically withdrawn from his bank account.

Larry gets to choose the frequency and amount of his gift.

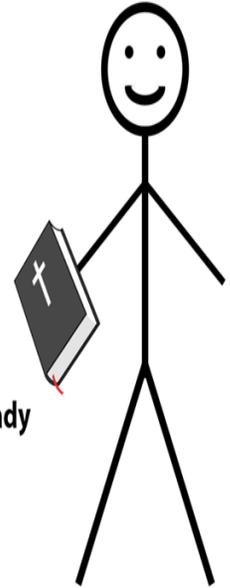
Larry doesn't have to worry about envelopes, checks, or mailing his gift if he's out of town or misses church.

Larry helps the church have a predictable and steady cash flow.

Larry just had to fill out one form, one time.

Larry uses EasyPledge.

You, too, can be like Larry.



You can pick up an EasyPledge form in the church office, Welcome Center, or talk to Sabrina, our Financial Secretary.

Youth Groups

QUEST Youth Groups

We currently have two youth groups, one for a group of High School Sophomores and up and a group of 6th graders through High School Freshman who stay together as a group.

Youth groups usually meet 2nd and 4th Sundays, but to get the most up-to-date information, email Karen Miller at Karen@unitepc.org to get on the youth updates email list.

Volunteering at Midwest Food Bank

Thursday, April 27

5:30pm

To continue serving the community, we will be spending the fourth Thursday of every month working at the food bank. Details on transportation will be sent via email.

R.U.S.H. (Rising up to Serve Him)

Middle/Early High School Youth

Sunday, April 23

3:30 – 5:00pm

Regular meeting with devotion and games.

QUEST

Older High School Youth

Sunday, April 23

5:00 – 6:30pm

Sunday, April 9th, there will be no regular youth group meetings. We encourage everyone to join us for VIVID that night.

Youth/Adult Volunteering at

Midwest Food Bank

Thursday, April 27th

5:30pm

To continue serving the community, we will be spending the fourth Thursday of every month through May, working at the food bank. Anyone else that would like to join us is welcome. It is a wonderful opportunity to work alongside our youth. Contact Karen Miller for details.

Children and Youth

Children's Education Hour-9:00am

Children meet in the Maker Space for brain games, reading, creating, and more.

Children's Sunday School

2nd-4th Grade Fellowship Group

Sunday, April 23

2:30 – 3:30pm

Fellowship Hall

To create fellowship and bonds before entering youth group, we are creating a social group for our 2nd-4th graders. This will be our third meeting where we will play games and have a snack. We may have some irregular meetings over the spring and summer and hope to make this a twice-monthly event in the fall. We will keep you updated on dates and times as we progress.

Holy Moly

Ages 3 – 3rd 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.

Connect

4th Grade - 6th Grade

Middle School Class Room

We will be continuing "CONNECT" and going deeper into the Bible stories we have been told repeatedly as children. **NOTE:** On 1st Sundays, this class will remain in worship.

Confirmation Class

Youth Room

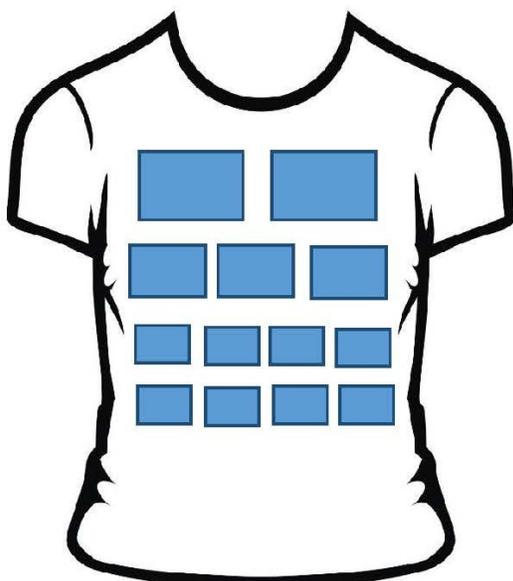
Parent's Night Out

None in April

Youth Cont'd

United Presbyterian Youth Mission Trip T-Shirt Sponsor Form 2017

This summer the UPC Youth Group plans to take 16 high & middle school kids, and their leaders, to Charleston, SC, to experience the best week of their year. During this week they will be able to deepen their relationship with God & one another as well as the community they serve through work at a food pantry, orphanage, aviary, The Ronald McDonald House & more. The time kids spend on these trips usually life changing, for the better. However, this change is not cheap. Please consider helping our kids experience the relationships & connections that are created this week & let us thank you by representing you or your business/organization on the back of our trip T-Shirts.



Sponsor Levels & Prices:

- X-Large - \$100
- Medium - \$50
- Small - \$25

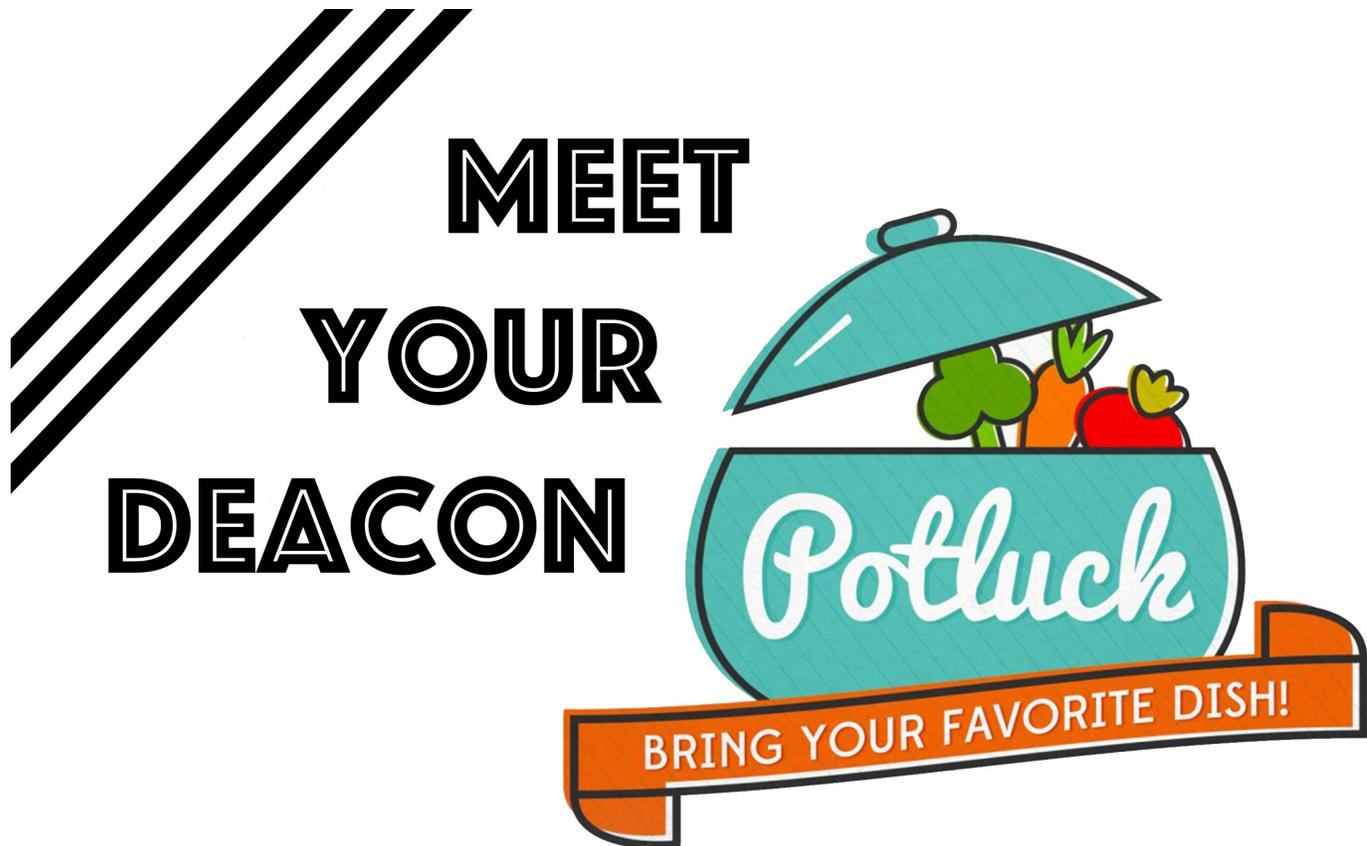
Name or Company Name:

Contact Name, Email & Phone:

If you have a company logo for us to use please email a high resolution jpg to karen@unitedpc.org by May 1, 2017.

If you need assistance or have questions please contact Karen Miller.

Please make checks out to: United Presbyterian Church



Who? United Presbyterian Congregation
What? Food, Fellowship, Meet Your Deacon
and other parish members
When? Sunday, April 30th at 11:30am

**Fried Chicken, beverages, and table service
will be provided. Please bring a dish or two to share!**

Please RSVP by signing up at the Information Center
or by calling the church office at
309-693-2002 by April 24th

News and Notes

Thanks

Dear UPC Members,
Thank you so much for the beautiful Valentine cards, for the candy, the bucket and the pencil. I opened the cards on Valentine's Day and made it a happy day for me. Thank you again and also thank you Mike Kelley for bringing the Valentine bag. I enjoyed visiting with him.
God Bless all of you.
Bertha Mueller

To My Church Family,
Thank you so much for all the Valentine cards and candy. That was so very thoughtful and meant so much to me. This is my 1st Valentine's Day without Lorraine and you all helped me get through it. Special thanks to Ken Krancher who brought the goodies and his wonderful visit.
Bill Bunker

Dear UPC Family,
Thank you all so very much for the cards, calls and visits during the time of my sister, Jan Cline's passing. Your caring and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated by me and my family. I'm truly blessed to have such a loving church family. God's blessings to you all.
My Love and Prayers,
Shirley Poshard

Thank you so much for all the Valentines! It was especially fun when our visiting deacon, Rose Schmollinger, and her husband Ron, brought them over and read them one by one! Jack is still enjoying the candy.
Jack & Pat Bensing

UPC,
How delightful a bag of good wished and loving thoughts. What a boost. It really made my day. It's the unexpected that lasts longest. Thank to all.
Blessings,
Phyllis Pryde

Dear Trish and All,
My thanks to everyone— and you—so many Valentines and many with very familiar Elmwood area names, Boyer, Nixon, Maher, McKeighan, Harkness, and my good friends, the quilters. Of course remembering Debbie & Mark Hanson who brought it to me. And the candy! Think of it as vitamins! Thank you.
Love,
Janet McKinty

Dear Pastor Stephen and Members of UPC,
Thank you for your continued support of the vital work of the center! Due to the very difficult economic troubles of the state of Illinois, your contributions are critical to continue the programs we offer.

Best Regards,
Anna Saxon
Board Member, the Center for Prevention of Abuse

UPC Women for Justice and Peace

UPC Women for Justice and Peace is a new group based at UPC and affiliated with the national Presbyterian Women organization as a congregational group. Presbyterian Women (PW) is an independent organization within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) of more than 300,000 women. The programming and resource options for the organization offer a variety of ways for women to live out their faith in an inclusive, caring community.

Like the national organization, we are committed to promoting social justice. As a local organization, we are particularly concerned with promoting the wellbeing and empowerment of women and girls in our congregation and in the Peoria community. UPC Women for Justice and Peace will work to participate in the mission of the church, providing and amplifying the much needed voice and contributions of women within our community and congregation.

Our official kickoff will be on **April 22, 2017 at 9:00-1:00**, when we will meet with a PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) trainer. PATH is a method for helping groups discern purpose, methods, goals, and objectives. It is designed so that everyone will have a voice in the process. We encourage the women of UPC to come to the meeting ready to speak and to listen. If you have questions, please speak to Charlotte Cronin, Alexis Maloof, Courtney McKinney-Whitaker, Karen Miller, or Sandy Nott.