

United
Presbyterian
Church
of Peoria, Illinois

The Chimes

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Peoria, IL



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Lent



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Pancake Supper

Join the UPC youth for a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 9 from 5-7 pm to raise money for the summer mission trip. Cost is \$7 adults and \$4 for kids to enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, fruit and more.

Ash Wednesday Worship, February 10th

8:45am Ash Wednesday Preschool Service for Students and Parents

9:00am Ash Wednesday Service at Independence Village

12:45pm Ash Wednesday Service Afternoon Preschool Service for Students and Parents

6:15pm Ash Wednesday Worship in Sanctuary



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Margaret Greiner

Pam Harrison

Midge Hillard



Margaret Hochstrasser

Loretta Horst

Mary Johnson

Dwight & Corda Jones

Mike Kelley

Ken Krancher

Maureen Leuba

Ray Long

Sandie Martin

Ethel Moore

Henry & Jeannie Noetzel

Nathan Pennington

Randy Saxon

Don Serup

Sherry Shedenhelm

Steve Stella

Deb Sullivan

Jude Thom

Dale Warren



Sgt Scranton, Joseph
B-CO 1-63 AR
Camp Beuhring, Kuwait
APO, AE 09330

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.

Uniting In Vision

About 12 years ago, the congregations of Arcadia and First Presbyterian Churches united in vision to create a new worshipping community called United Presbyterian Church. In the years since, United Presbyterian has shared the love and grace of God through worship, education, mission, and fellowship. We have dedicated ourselves to growing and nurturing followers of Christ in a welcoming community. We have made United a place to worship, a place to serve, and a place to belong. This congregation has come together to build a sanctuary, create a preschool, welcome new members, start new missions, and help people grow closer to God and each other.

In 2009, a Long Range Planning Team was formed to listen to the congregation and dream with them. A report was published that listed several long-term goals. I am happy to say that all of the main goals have been accomplished except paying off the mortgage by 2020. We have grown in young adults, families, and children. We have adapted our worship, we have become more engaged in local and international worship, we have created new educational opportunities, and so much more.

As we look back across twelve years, United has changed a lot. Some change have been very positive while other changes have been challenging. We've seen changes in members, in staff, in leadership structures, in programs, in worship, and in the very culture of the church. It's time we take stock of how we have evolved as a church since we first united in vision.

I want to invite you to an event on Sunday, March 13th at the church in the Fellowship Hall at 3:00pm. We will have some light refreshments and talk together about where we are going and where we have been. We'll talk about all the change over the last twelve years. We'll talk about what's life giving about the ministry of UPC and what excites you. We'll talk about what your dreams are for this faith community.

I hope you'll be able to come, because I want to hear from you. I want to hear how you have grown and been nurtured as a follower of Christ in this welcoming community. I want to hear how you've been able to serve others and help UPC be "on mission." What has your role been to help grow and nurture followers of Christ? What has your role been in making UPC a welcoming community and helping create a spirit of welcome outside the walls of the church in your neighborhood, office, even across the world?

This is our opportunity to Unite in Vision once more as we come to UPC not to be served, but to serve. It's our chance to Unite in Vision so we can be On Mission, so we can be Christ's body.

In common calling,
Pastor Stephen

WORSHIP AND THE ARTS

Lent and Jonah

Lent is a season of the church lasting forty days because it commemorates Jesus' forty days of fasting in the wilderness. Lent leads to Easter. Lent is deliberately designed to be a darker, somber and more muted season, so it provides a contrast to the light and joyful celebration of Easter. When we intentionally enter and journey through this darker season of Lent, it heightens the intensity and joy of Easter.

In our culture, unhappiness is a form of treason because everyone has to always be happy. The result is that we have very few places where we can express and encounter our grief, pain, and disappointment. Lent is designed as a season for all of us to orient ourselves toward the darkness, not just in our own heart, but in the world. And as we orient ourselves to that, the point is not simply to wallow in it, but to shine light into it and bring it into conscious awareness so it can be dissolved. So this is a season where you are encouraged to become conscious of and befriend the darkness in your life.

- This year, during Lent, we are going to explore the book of Jonah and how it might inform our Lenten journey to the cross and empty tomb. Jonah may be an odd choice after everything you just read, because Jonah is actually supposed to be a very funny book. Jonah makes use of a lot of satire, and satire is a wonderfully powerful ingredient in helping us address dark and difficult things. Satire is the cream and sugar in a bitter drink that makes it more palatable. I'm going to be honest, you probably won't laugh if you read the book of Jonah, but 3,000 years, a different culture and a different language can sometimes ruin the obvious comedy, but I'll try to point out the times when the narrator is kind of winking at the audience with a wry smile.

Jonah will challenge us this Lent as we explore how storms sometimes save us, how we need God to repent, how troubling the love of God can sometimes be, and how we need certain things to die, or be swallowed by a fish, so that new life can be found. I hope you'll join us for Lent and for Jonah and for the darkness so we can truly and fully celebrate the light of Easter.

Sunday Worship

February 7: Luke 4:22-30 "Not Who We Say You Are" Pastor Patricia

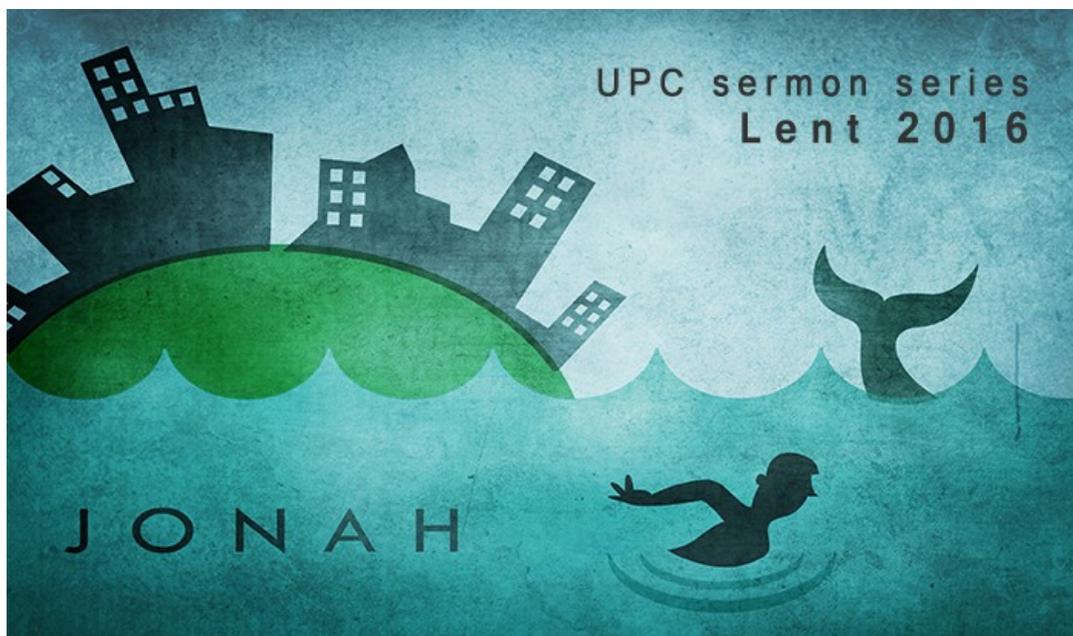
Ash Wednesday: Mark 12:28-34 "From Ashes to Life" Pastor Patricia

February 14: Jonah 1:1-3 "Your Tarshish and Your Nineveh" Pastor Stephen

February 21: Jonah 1:4-17 "The Sign of Jonah" Pastor Stephen

February 28: Jonah 2 "Saving Storms" Pastor Stephen

March 6: Jonah 3 "Maybe God Will Repent" Pastor Stephen



Lent 2016

Loving God, Loving Others



Ash Wednesday Services

There are several opportunities for Ash Wednesday Worship this year on February 10th. Pastor Stephen will lead a short service at 8:45am and 12:45pm for Preschool students and their parents. This is a great opportunity to receive ashes if you do not have a lot of time

during the day but have time in the morning or during a lunch break.

Pastor Patricia will lead an Ash Wednesday service at Independence Village at 9:00am that everyone is invited to attend, being held in their 3rd Floor Activity Room. We will host a church worship service at 6:15pm in place of normal Connecting Point classes that will feature a message, music, and the imposition of ashes. We hope you will be able to attend one of these worship opportunities.

Ashes for Children: During the 6:15pm service, children will worship in the Chapel with Karen Miller, where they will learn about Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.

Holy Week Schedule March 20-27

Maundy Thursday Service Meal– 5:00-8:00pm at the Carver Center with Zion Baptist Church

Good Friday Service– 7:00pm at UPC

Sunrise Service– 6:30am at Upper Grandview Drive Park with Zion Baptist Church

Easter Worship– 10:00am at UPC

Wednesday Night Connecting Point Adult Class

“Loving God, Loving Others” based on the greatest commandment as described by Jesus in Mark 12:28-33 and Luke 9:57-62. It is the topic of the book *The Jesus Creed* by Scot McKnight which Pastor Patricia will be teaching from in Lent.

Come to Pray at a Prayer Station

The Room 100 Chapel will be set up with a prayer station.

Read from the devotional *40 days of Living the Jesus Creed*, or Pray in Color using the coloring pages provided. A different coloring page will be available each week.

Here are ways that we can grow and be nurtured as followers of Christ this Lent

Pray a Daily Prayer

Pray the 2016 Lenten Devotional prayer from the Scriptures. Cut at the dotted line and place it where you will be reminded to pray.

2016 Lenten Devotional

Let us Pray the following prayer morning and evening for the season of Lent

Hear O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.

Why this Lenten Devotional?

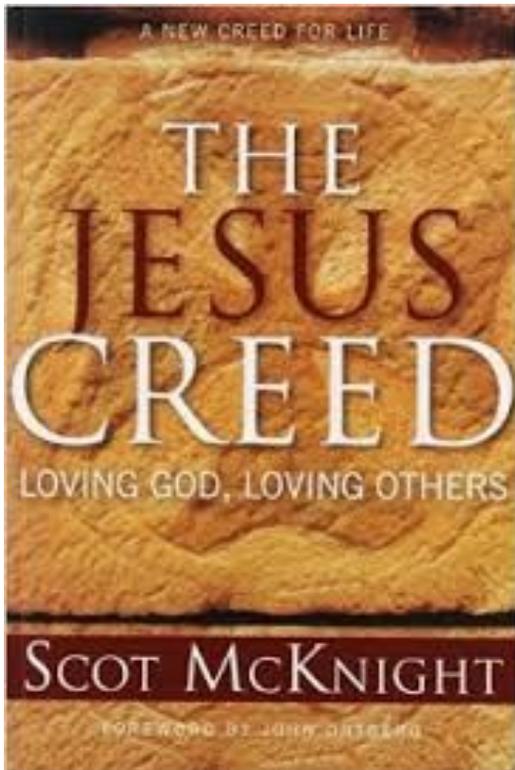
What if we were to look at Lent a bit differently this year? What if our repentance was for the many ways that we fail at loving as Jesus loves. But what if it didn't stop there? What if we were to spend the forty days of Lent praying a very simple prayer every morning and every night? What if we were to pray the prayer that Jesus (and every pious Jew) prayed and the amendment that he gave to the Biblical scholar who asked Jesus "Which commandment is the greatest of all?"

Jesus answered the scholar by quoting the *Shema*, the Jewish twice daily prayer that is from Deuteronomy 6:4-9: *Hear O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.* Then Jesus added to it, quoting from Leviticus 19:18 saying; *The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* *There is no other commandment greater than these.*

What if we were to let these words of scripture become our prayer, with the hope and intent that these words would be written deep within us through the power and work of the Holy Spirit who indwells us? That my friends, would be a Lent to remember. Will you pray it with me?

Loving God, Loving Others is our life task, and is the topic for the Wednesday night Adult Connecting Point Class this month. We will be diving into *The Jesus Creed* by Scot McKnight, which is based on this prayer. We will be exploring how it is exemplified to us in the Scriptures. It is my prayer that you will join me, and be open to what the Spirit may be doing in our midst.

In prayer with you and for you,
Pastor Patricia



Thanks

Thank you for the use of your wonderful facility!
Central Illinois Families Anonymous

Thank you for your prayers & cards while I was in the hospital. Thank you Pastor Patricia for your visit and many phone calls. It was greatly appreciated.
Marilyn Umdenstock

Dear UPC,
Than you for the beautiful red roses, cards, and phone calls during my hospitalizations. Also, the visits from Pastors Stephen & Patricia. Your thoughtfulness was so appreciated. We are so blessed to be surrounded by such loving and caring people.
Fondly,
Peggy Weber

We want to thank the entire UPC Staff for helping host four Richwoods High Seniors perform a concert to benefit the American Cancer Society on January 16th at our church. I do not have a final amount that was raised, but it was over \$825 We also received many compliments about our church and what a nice venue for a concert. Aaron was wonderful with the girls. They were so glad that they could rehearse on Friday afternoon. Thank you so much to all for the time and effort by our church staff to make this possible.
Bill & Bobbie Rice

Christian Education

Adult Classes

Sunday Mornings at 9am

Journey Through the Bible Room 100

Study the Bible with Don Baker and Gordon Selling
Join us as we study and learn from the Book of Job.

Wired Word

Room 105

Discuss current events through the lens of Scripture with Betty Pugh and John Warning.

It seems our news headlines give us plenty to talk about. How shall we respond? Let's talk about it together.

Followers

Room 107

Join the DVD/Book discussion on *What's So Amazing*

About Grace? by Philip Yancey with Pastor Patricia

February 7: Chapter 12- No Oddballs Allowed

February 14: Chapter 13- Grace Healed Eyes

February 21: Chapter 14- Loopholes

February 28: Chapter 15- Grace Avoidance

Living Your Faith

Room 106

Watch a short video and discuss it with Pastor Stephen

Sunday Mornings at 11am

11-Minute Lessons meets in the Heritage Room (107) to discuss how to understand the Old Testament.

Thursday Mornings at 10am

Bible Study: the Gospel of Luke; the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus with Pastor Patricia.

Connecting Point Has Something For Everyone!

Whether you come for the meal and fellowship, come for the adult class, parent group, Tai Chi, music rehearsals, or for the children's activities, it is a great time to Come and Get Connected!

5:30 Meal / Handbell Choir

6:00 Tai Chi

6:15 Activities for children / Worship Band

6:30 Adult Classes / Youth Room open

7:15 Chancel Choir



Connecting Point Adult Class

Loving God, Loving Others with Pastor Patricia

A Jewish master of the Torah once asked Jesus what was the greatest of the commandments. We have heard what Jesus refers to as "the greatest commandments." Jesus' answer transformed all who chose to follow it. Following Jesus and the greatest of all commandments changes us, it changes our loving. It is the subject matter for the book *The Jesus Creed* by Scot McKnight. This month Pastor Patricia is beginning a Lenten Bible Study guided by that book. You do not have to read the book or purchase the book to participate in the class. However, it is a very good book that is easy to read and worthy of a place in your home library. Call the church office to have us to order you a copy for \$14.60. A Kindle version is also available for \$1.99.

Connecting Point Kids!

Children are welcome upstairs for Faith 5, prayer, games and gym time.

Youth room open for middle school and up!

The youth room will be open during Connecting Point for 5th graders and up only. Bring your homework, a book or game and make yourself some hot chocolate. Make sure to clean up after yourself!

Parents Gathering

After dinner until 7:15

Library

We will gather, parents of all ages and stages, to discuss current parenting topics and issues. It is a casual group that finds comfort and solace in sharing our ups and downs as parents. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Youth Christian Education

Journey Through Lent

Starting Sunday, February 14

3 years - 8th grade

It is important that all our children begin to understand what Easter means at a young age. Sure the Easter eggs and bunnies are good and fun, but more importantly, we want children to be able to tell others about the events of Holy Week. Middle school class will help lead the lessons.

During Sundays in Lent, the children will be taking a journey with Jesus. On the first Sunday, they will create passports that they will use each week to gather stickers when they complete part of their journey during Sunday School and special events. The Sunday after Easter, we will have a Passport Celebration Party during Sunday School where we will recognize everyone who earned stickers during Lent, and yes everyone will be honored!

Sunday 9am Children's Education Hour

HOLY MOLY!

Main Sunday School Room

Children will experience the Bible through HOLY MOLY! Holy Moly follows a four-part sequence: Discover, Relate, Connect, and Create. Each week, kids will watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, read their Bible, and try a creative activity. We are so excited to begin this new journey in our faith!

Middle & High School Education

Echo the Story Curriculum

Youth Room

We will be studying Harry Potter books and movies and their connection to our faith.

Children's Sunday School

Living Inside Out

Ages 3 – 3rd grade

Children will be escorted from worship after the Time for Young Disciples upstairs to the Sunday school rooms where they will learn how to live their faith inside out! With a monthly theme, the children will experience the Bible through fun, high-energy learning experiences that will be memorable. The excitement will begin with a fun large group time and then take the lesson deeper with small group time by age.

4th Grade and Up Sunday School

In the Youth Room after the Time for Young Disciples

We will be beginning a new curriculum called "CONNECT" that uses technology and Bible study to take the middle school youth through the Bible in a fun and memorable way.

QUEST

Quest Youth Groups

Quest Middle School Gatherings

Sunday, February 14 & 28

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Quest High School Gatherings

Sunday, February 14 & 28

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

*Email Karen Miller at karen@unitedpc.org to receive weekly youth updates. This will give you access to the most current youth information.

Quest Middle and High School Important Upcoming Events

Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 9

5-7 PM

Youth will arrive at any time they can after 4 to begin pancake preparations. Hopefully we will be cleaning up as we are serving the last people so a 7:30 finish time is possible. We understand that the youth have busy school nights, so we will take whatever time you can give. The proceeds of the supper will once again go toward our trip for 7-12th graders this summer.

Prayer Corner

Prayer Corner

Please continue your prayers for our friends in need of healing: Rick Tremper, Debbie Sullivan, Mary Jermac, Sandie Martin, Maureen Leuba, Don Serup, Jude Thom, Randy Saxon, Pam Hill, Marilyn Umdenstock, Eunice Andrews, Doug Jackson and Peg Weber. We ask the Lord to strengthen and comfort all who mourn, and the families of Judi and Skip Beck (death of Barbara Knoblauch), and the families of Alice Prentiss, Jeanette Herrink, and Marjorie Wilkerson.

Mission

Christmas Day at South Side Mission

It was our privilege and pleasure to be a small part of the huge group of people who prepared and delivered meals from South Side Mission. I believe they numbered over 3,000. It was our first experience doing this, but surely won't be our last. We offered to do whatever would help them most and they decided we could help with delivering meals. Since it was our first time, they gave us one route of 22 meals (6 homes). We were able to get the deliveries done in about an hour and enjoyed it so much we decided to go back to the Mission to see if they needed any more routes delivered (which they did) so we took two more routes (37 meals – 14 homes). This was one of the most fulfilling things we have done. Sometimes we felt like crying to think that we were the only contact those people had on Christmas Day, but sometimes there was great joy that came from the recipients. We felt that we received far more than we gave and can't wait until next year to sign up again. Perhaps you might think about your family volunteering for such a worthwhile project.

Marcia Boyer and Joe Boyer

Maundy Thursday Service Meal

On Thursday, March 24th UPC will partner with Zion Baptist Church to provide a free community meal for anyone who needs it at the Carver Center downtown. We will serve alongside our brothers and sisters at Zion and break bread with our neighbors in the downtown community. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

Birthday Card Club

Has anyone ever forgotten your birthday? How did that make you feel? Well, foster kids are often called "the forgotten." Unless you work in the child welfare system, are a foster parent, or have been some way involved with the foster care system you may not think of this population of children often. Many foster children don't get birthday cards and often get their birthday forgotten by the most important people in his/her life. For this reason, the missions committee would like to start a new mission in January for the foster children in our community. The idea is simple: give foster children a card on their birthday. Every month on the missions bulletin board in the fellowship hall we will have the first names and ages of children that have birthdays the following month. We invite the members of UPC to participate by simply buying a birthday card for a child and sticking it in the child's envelope. Please do not send gifts with the cards (unless it is things such as stickers in the card). As a foster care caseworker I have seen the joy a child gets when they receive a birthday card whether it is from their birth family, foster family, or even a complete stranger. I hope you will consider helping to brighten the birthdays of foster children in our community and help them realize they are not "forgotten." If you have any questions please feel free to ask me, Kirsten Hall, or anyone else on the missions committee. Thank you!!

Kirsten Hall and the Missions Committee

Snack Pack

We fill Snack Packs on the fourth Sunday of the month in the Sewing Room (103). Everyone is welcome to help us fill these snack packs. We provide 40 students from Northmoor Elementary with Snack Pack bags every week so that they may have nutritious food and snacks over the weekend. We fill a month's worth of bags every fourth Sunday of the month after worship, and we need help. We also need donations of the following items, especially at least 40 of each:

Snack Pack Needs:

- 100% Juice Boxes
- Fruit Cups
- Applesauce
- Granola or Protein Bars
- Beef Sticks
- Dehydrated Fruit Snacks
- Cheese or Peanut Butter Crackers
- Breakfast Cereal Bars

Mission Cont'd

One Great Hour of Sharing: Brazil Mission Partnership

We are continuing our partnership in Brazil with Projeto Amar for our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. One hundred percent of your gifts will go to help support our Brazil partnership.

This year we are raising money so each child at Projeto Amar can be given a Portuguese Language Action Bible (these are similar to the ones we've given our confirmation students in the past). There are 48 preschool children who are a part of Projeto Amar and the staff would like to purchase 50 Action Bibles for this age group. The Bibles are \$18.75 each.

Junior and Cidinha, the co-directors of Projeto Amar, asked UPC to help purchase air conditioners for the preschool classrooms instead of donating the funds to staffing salaries like last year. There are three preschool classrooms and they all get very hot during the day. They have two fans in each room, but they aren't very effective in cooling the spaces. The children have a hard time focusing due to the heat and it is stressful for them and the teaching staff. To provide 3 air conditioning units it would cost \$2,812.50. The Projeto Amar Learning Center is making a big difference in children's lives, and you are a big part of that.

Our goal this year is to raise \$4000 for One Great Hour of Sharing. We'll mark our progress **with Bibles that the children of UPC will place on the chancel each week.** Every \$100 given will mean one Bible our children can symbolically place on the chancel for children in Brazil. This is another great way that UPC is ON MISSION. We are growing and nurturing followers of Christ in the welcoming community of Projeto Amar, even though we are on another continent. Your generosity and love nurtures these children and their faith will grow through their teachers and their very own Bible.

Stewardship and Finance

Per Capita Payments Needed

UPC needs your help meeting our Per Capita pledge to the Presbytery and Presbyterian Church (USA). Your contribution of Per Capita for each member in your family will greatly help our UPC Budget.

Just as other organizations find equitable ways to share those costs, so has the church. That equitable way is called "per capita" which, of course, literally means "by head."

That is, every PCUSA congregation contributes to the expenses of the overall organization by paying an amount per person based on its membership numbers. That means that larger churches pay a higher total than smaller ones, but the cost per member is the same whether a church is large or small.

The money gathered together from all of the congregations allows the PCUSA to function according to our understanding of God's call to us as a gathered body. For instance, a part of it pays for the meetings that we believe to be crucial to understanding God's intentions for us. When we gather in presbyteries, synods or as the General Assembly, we meet together to discern God's desire for us. Those who attend are not expected to bear the burden of the expense of their attendance. Instead, that is covered by per capita. Searching for a pastor is a function in which a congregation is aided by the whole denomination. The expenses of this network of assistance are paid by per capita. When there is trouble in a church--whether a fire or an issue with pastoral leadership--the presbytery, backed up by the whole denomination--is available to provide help and counsel. The presbytery can also assist with all of the myriad questions that arise from time to time in the administration of any congregation.

Being a part of an organization has its privileges and its expectations. Sharing the expenses of the PCUSA and sharing in its benefits is accomplished through the per capita contribution.

Please consider contributing to the church's Per Capita share by contributing \$28 per church member in your family. Checks can be made payable to UPC, but please mark them for Per Capita or use your special Per Capita envelopes. Thank you for helping the work of the larger church in this way.

Health & Wellness

In the News: Zika Virus

Zika virus is a virus spread to people through mosquito bites. Zika virus can't be spread from person to person contact. The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting from several days to a week. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon.

Outbreaks of Zika have occurred in areas of Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas. Because the Aedes species mosquitoes that spread Zika virus are found throughout the world, it is likely that outbreaks will spread to new countries. Locally transmitted Zika has not been reported in the United States, but cases of Zika have been reported in returning travelers.

There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika. Travelers can protect themselves from this disease by taking steps to prevent mosquito bites. When traveling to countries where Zika virus or other viruses spread by mosquitoes have been reported, use insect repellent, wear long sleeves and pants, and stay in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens.

If you develop the symptoms described above and have visited an area where Zika is present, see your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may order blood tests to look for Zika or a similar virus.

No vaccine or medications are available to prevent or treat Zika infections but the symptoms can be treated. If diagnosed with Zika virus it is important to get plenty of rest, drink plenty of fluids and Tylenol can be taken for fever and pain. Aspirin, Ibuprofen and Naproxen should be avoided until a diagnosis is obtained as these medications. Avoid mosquito bites for the first week of your illness. Zika virus can be found in the blood and passed from an infected person to another mosquito through mosquito bites. An infected mosquito can then spread the virus to other people.

Questions or concerns- contact Kirsten Tharp, Parish Nurse

Heart Sunday

Sunday, February 7, 2016 is Heart Sunday. Join in the fun by wearing red clothing. Make sure to stop by the display in the fellowship hall for information about heart health, have your blood pressure taken and sample a heart healthy Super Bowl snack!

Valentines for the Homebound

UPC has several members we are unable to see on a regular basis. Please take a moment to share a card or note with them this Valentines Day. You will be able to put your Valentine's in the bags in the fellowship hall on January 31st and February 7th (until 11:30am). The following is the list of people who will be receiving valentines:

Gladys Abraham
Jack Bensing
Grace Bossingham
Lorraine Bunker
Cyrene Eberle
Carolyn Gnepper
Geneva Hall
Midge Hillard
Loretta Horst
Shirley Jett
Corda Jones
Ray Long
Janet McKinty
Bertha Mueller
Jeanne Noetzel
Don Serup

Harriet Bensing
Dorothy Bloom
Leonard Brown
Fern Deemie
Bob Gnepper
Margaret Greiner
Miriam Hawk
Margaret Hochstrasser
Evelyn Humphrey
Mary Johnson
Arlene Lister
Sandie Martin
Ethel Moore
Henry Noetzel
John Parks

"Let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God..." 1 John 4:7

Kirsten Tharp, RN

Church Life

Eating Together

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

Local Lunch: February 15th at 12:00pm at Ruchi Indian Kitchen in the shopping center at the corner of Knoxville and Pioneer Parkway

Ladies Night Out: February 18th, at 6:00pm@ Biaggi's

UPC Movie Night

UPC is sponsoring a movie night for all ages on Friday, February 19th. Come for an evening of popcorn, fellowship and the movie *Inside Out*. It will be fun for all ages. Doors open at 6:00pm and the movie starts at 6:30pm.

Calling all Card Players!

Friday, February 5th, will be the first night of the new UPC "Hand and Foot" Card Night. We will be gathering at 6:30pm. All players, experienced or not, are welcomed!

While reservations or sign up are not necessary, Charlotte or Pauline would appreciate knowing that you will be playing this first game night. In the future, we plan on meeting the first Friday of each month. Please contact Charlotte Cronin at 253-4276 or charlottecronin@comcast.net or Pauline Harris at 696-0512 or pbharris25@aol.com.

BUNCO

Bunco is February 12th @ 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack if you want. There is plenty of food and fun. Everyone wins a prize. Call Eunice @ 688-8458 or Betty @ 822-8500 for more info.

Anna Circle

Anna Circle will meet February 11th @ 6:00pm at Weaver Ridge. The lesson will be Chapter 7, of *Really Bad Girls of the Bible*. Our mission is the Share the Warmth Blanket Ministry.

News and Notes

Library Book Review

*Come Rain or Come Shine** is a delightful little story. In today's fast paced, make a show world, this couple just wants to get married and start their life....on a farm. A newly certified veterinarian and his bride love the idea of getting married on their new farmstead. The community is invited and everyone is involved in some way. Getting through some of the obstacles of a wedding were a piece of cake (excuse the pun) compared to who shows up at the exact time of the I-dos! This is a simple read, fun, loving, and clearly a lesson in how sometimes, little is more. Of course, I am a little biased, being a farmer's wife and daughter, but I thought this was just delightful. Author, Jan Karon, once again makes us smile and love our Christian faith.

Book Reviewed by Trish Deppermann for the Library Committee

*This book can be checked out in our church library.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is God's Love in Action

There are times when every one of us experiences difficulties. God never intended for us to go through these experiences alone. That's why God has brought us together as a congregation and why we have Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who have received 50 hours of caregiving training to minister to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge, or simply going through a tough time.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately and confidentially on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, support and remind you of Christ's presence in your life.

If you'd like to learn more about Stephen Ministry for yourself, a family member, a friend, neighbor, co-worker or someone else you know, talk with one of our pastors.

New Members



Clay Giese and Rob Lohnes
Not pictured: Cyril, Madelyn & Maisy Lohnes



Brock & Stephanie Peoples
Patrick, Dean, & Reid



Cory & Val Olson
Caitlin & Carter