

United  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of Peoria, Illinois

# The Chimes

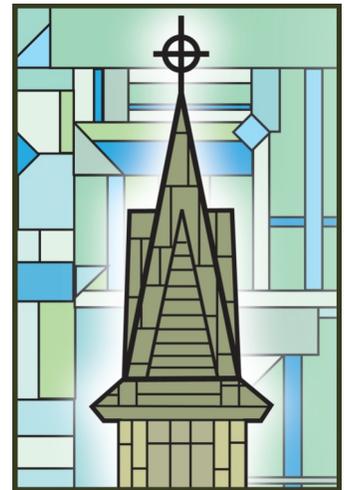
A publication of United Presbyterian Church  
Peoria, IL



Volume.13 Issue.6 June 29, 2016

## Faith in Action Sunday July 17th

- ✚ Worship with residents of Independence Village at 10:15am
- ✚ Hands-on work at Common Place
  - Light landscaping
  - Tending and spreading Mulch
  - Wall painting
  - Arranging books in the library
- ✚ Service Work at UPC
  - Packing Snack Packs 10:00am
  - Making Tie Blankets 10:00am
  - Setting up for VBS 10:30am
- ✚ Worship with members of Mt. Zion Baptist at 10:30am
- ✚ Help Jewish Federation clean buttons for Holocaust Memorial



**Sign up at the Welcome Center Bulletin Board Today!**

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Eunice Andrews  
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 Bryce Brand  
 Leonard Brown  
 Bill Bunker  
 Dan Dickerson  
 Bob & Carolyn Gnepper  
 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  
 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  
 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](http://www.unitedpc.org).

### Challenging Thoughts on Iona

As part of my trip to Scotland, I went to the island of Iona. Saint Columba founded an abbey there from which he spread the Gospel to Scotland. It is now the center of Celtic Christianity and a group of Christians who work for peace and justice, known as the Iona Community.

When I visited the chapel, I came across some quotes on a sheet of paper the Iona Community had left for people to read. I want to share with you a few that really stuck with me. I spent a while in the chapel reflecting on those words, praying about them, and wrestling with them for the rest of the trip.

They were, and are, challenging words and I think fit into our summer series on the prophets because the prophets gave God's people challenging and often critical messages that Israel had to wrestle with, and we still need to wrestle with them today.

My challenge to you is to read these words and consider what they may mean for your faith, your action, your discipleship, and your church. I will not give you any prompts to think about, or extra questions, just the words the challenged me in thought and prayer.

*"I have no objections to churches so long as they do not interfere with God's work."* Brooks Atkinson

*"I am sure that God is alive and well in this country, but mercifully not dependent on the church alone for God's effective disclosure."* Elizabeth Templeton

*"The church has usually been happy to be the world's icing sugar, somewhat sweetening the intolerable and changing nothing. The church, called by its Lord to be in the world but not of it, has more often than not, been of the world but not in it."* Paul Oestricher

*"The real sanctity of a church is that it is a place where we can go to weep in common."* Miguel de Unamuno

My prayer is that these words inspire you, challenge you, motivate you, and comfort you because that is what God does, and that is what the church should do. Pick at least one of these quotes, and re-read it every day for the month and just think about what it means to you over the course of the month. I'd love to hear your thoughts at the end of the month.

In common calling,  
Pastor Stephen



## Service with an Attitude

Humility: An important virtue for every human and foundational in the Christian life. As followers of Jesus who *“humbled himself as a servant and became obedient, even to death on a cross,”* we are the benefactors of his humility. We are also the benefactors of the humility of countless others who have chosen to follow Jesus and serve; through whom we have been blessed. Every time a person sets aside their own agenda in order to give needed attention to us, we are benefactors of their humility.

I recall a time when I felt called to serve as a Chaplain. I thought I had so much Biblical knowledge to bring to people in time of need. What I found is, that is not what people needed (someone who proudly thought they had all the answers). What they needed was one who would set aside their own agenda and opinions and to humbly be there, and be present to them in that moment, open and attentive to what God was doing in that moment, and choose to participate in that. It’s the kind of presence theologian Andrew Purves refers to in his book *Crucifixion of Ministry*.

Faith in Action Sunday is quickly approaching. As you can see we have many opportunities to participate *“actively,”* and be open and present to what God is doing and calling us to participate in. So we will step away from our normal Sunday worship routine to wake ourselves up to the importance of service, and to stretch us in our attitude of service. I came across the following quote that sums up the humble attitude of service in the name of Christ.

To serve others in the spirit of Jesus allows us the freedom of a humility that carries no burdens of *“Appearance.”* It lets us be what we are---simply a particularly lively piece of clay who as servant of God, happens to be here now with the ability to do this good and needful thing for that other bit of clay there. The experience of active love freed up and flowing by faith through us on such occasions will safeguard us from innumerable pitfalls of the spiritual life.  
Dallas Willard *The Spirit of the Disciplines*

In God’s economy the field is level. Last shall be first and the first shall be last. The imagery of serving in the attitude of *“one lively piece of clay to another piece of clay”* helps you and I to remember that we serve humbly, as we have been humbly served.

I hope that each of you will take the opportunity to share our most important asset: our humble selves. See you in Action!

A fellow humble servant,  
Pastor Patricia

## Prayer Circle

We pray for the healing hand of God be upon our friends in need of healing: Jan Wagner, Steve Nordvall, Dave Nixon, Ken Krancher, Sandie Martin, Shirley Poshard, Joanne Long, Helen Deppermann, Mike Chesman, Marlene Boeker, Margaret Hochstrasser, Bill Bunker and Bob McDowell. And may our compassionate God grant comfort and strength to the family and friends who are grieving for: Dorothy Bloom, Peggy Hill, and the sister of Kim James.

## Stewardship & Finance

### Thinking About Legacies

There are so many legacies from which we draw. Parents oftentimes leave us with a powerful set of values and a strong legacy of service and acceptance of others. Even our faith creates in us a legacy of strong biblical knowledge and curiosity and humility.

Our congregation has invested in us legacies of affirmation and opportunity, of unconditional love and friendships that stand the test of time, of nurtured faith and tested values and growing stewardship. As we focus on all the blessings left us by others, by our church and by our life experiences, we must ask ourselves: What legacy will I leave?

Hopefully these will include the hope of a strong faith, the enduring power of nonjudgmental love, and perhaps even the desire for our lives to make a difference in the world. As part of this, consider how including the church in your end-of-life giving plans will provide a legacy to future generations seeking to grow and be nurtured as followers of Christ in a welcoming community.

## UPC Discovery Preschool

The end of the school year is always bittersweet for early childhood teachers. Summer is here and we're excited for a break and time with our own families, but at the same time we know with the coming of the summer season we have to say goodbye to the children who have stolen our hearts as we prepare them to enter kindergarten.

This year I received an especially meaningful letter from one of our parents. The following is an excerpt from her letter:

"Dear Mrs. Scranton: I owe you an apology. When I first heard of UPC Discovery preschool through some other families in my neighborhood, I doubted a program with mixed ages and no structured teaching time from the teachers would be the right fit for me and my child. Two years later, I can honestly say the preschool has been life-changing for our son and our family! He has changed in more ways than I ever imagined! The individual attention, love, and respect given to every child at UPC have shaped our child into a confident learner – one who is reading and writing, (what my inexperienced parent brain thought was the only goal in preschool). The life skills you give these children by your love and feeding of their intellect exceed any preschool program I have ever heard of. I am sad to see this chapter in his life close, but I am no longer anxious of what comes next on this educational journey. Because of UPC Discovery, our son is ready to soar! Thank you."

This letter served to remind me that United Presbyterian Church is a very special place, something I often take for granted as I go about my daily life in school. Another reminder occurred a few weeks later as our school played host to over 70 educators from around the world as part of our annual *Becoming Young Thinkers* Summer Institute. Educators from as far away as Chengdu, China spent a week learning about project work and walked away inspired by the best practices implemented at UPC Discovery. Here are a few of the most memorable comments from the participants:

"I can't believe how beautiful your church & school are! It's like walking in an arboretum!"

"How do you get so many parents & church members to volunteer in your school? I've never seen a community like this one!"

"The children that go to your school are very lucky children"

"This is the most amazing place I have ever seen!"

I wrote this article not to brag about our church and school, (although I am very proud of both), but to remind all of us of the special place we call United Presbyterian Church. I, for one, feel very blessed to be a part of it!

In His service,  
Pam Scranton

## VBS

### Vacation Bible School...Not Just for Kids!

**Sunday, July 17 – Thursday, July 21 from 6 – 8:30pm**

I know you have heard about it. You see the signs, the decorations, the pictures and more. You know it is happening, but have you ever experienced it? I would like to extend a personal invitation to anyone and everyone, young and old to come experience VBS. You do not have to volunteer to lead or have a child participating. Just come join in the fun! If you ask any adult involved in VBS, they have just as much fun as the children and why should you miss out on that? Show up anytime and see what the excitement is all about!

Some of the things you could participate in are:

- Helping make cards and gifts for members who find it difficult to make it to church,
- Learn more about Foster Pet Outreach and the wonderful work they do, enjoy a Kona Ice after the children sing songs on finale night,
- Play some crazy relay races with the kids,
- Watch some of our youth and adults share their dramatic skills in skits,
- Share in some interactive prayer time with the kids,
- Listen to former Chicago Bull, A.J. Guyton, share what he has learned about hard work, and so much more!

This week is a celebration and we want everyone to be a part of it!

Karen Miller

### VBS Volunteer Informational Meetings

**Wednesday, July 13 at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall**

**Faith in Action Sunday during decorating at 10:30 a.m.**

If you are volunteering from VBS, we will have brief meetings to go over the week. If you cannot make these times, let Karen know and she will be sure to get the information to you. If you have volunteered in the past, the set-up is very similar to the past two years.

## Worship & the Arts



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

This summer, we are hearing God speak to us through the prophetic books of Scripture. A prophet is a messenger of God, and each prophetic work in Scripture is God's message to God's people in a particular time and place, but it is also God's word to us today. Join us all summer long as we hear God's messages to us.

#### Sunday Worship

**July 3:** "None But Yours"

Amos 5:21-24 Pastor Stephen

**July 10:** "A Basket of Summer Fruit"

Amos 8:1-7 Pastor Stephen

**July 17: Faith in Action Sunday**

Independence Village at 10:15am with

Pastor Patricia Isaiah 6:1-8 "Worship Can be Like That"

**July 24:** "Life in the Dust Bowl"

Jeremiah 17:5-8 Pastor Stephen

**July 31:** "God Has Plans For Y'all"

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 Pastor Stephen

#### Advent Devotional

Do you remember the 2015 Advent Devotional that we all so relished back in December? It blessed us because the stories come from those who are a part of this body, this church. We want to serve one another by producing a 2016 Advent Devotional. To do so, we need submissions. Please sign up by the Welcome Center if you would like to write a submission this year. You may write about your Epiphany Star gift or a Scripture verse (you will be given a list to choose from). We are signing up in July, because we need submissions by August 31<sup>st</sup> in order to have time to assemble, publish and print them.

## Worship & the Arts Cont'd

### Continual Confession and Assurance

During my graduate studies I loved to dissect both ancient and contemporary liturgies to discover how people worship across time, cultures, and belief systems. I was working in another Presbyterian church at the time, and I remember being frustrated by how the Confession and Assurance of Faith worked in the liturgy. It seemed these two happened so quickly that not only was "proper" Confession difficult to achieve, but more importantly the Assurance of Faith seemed premature given the brevity in which we confessed collectively and individually.

In reading through an explanation of the liturgy in Wittenberg offered by Martin Luther in 1523, I am amazed at how these ancient liturgies worked. The worshipers in this 16<sup>th</sup> Century context gradually moved between moments of confession, proclamation of faith and devotion, and hearing affirmations of God's love and found ultimate culmination in the Eucharistic meal. There was an introit, the Kyrie (prayers with "Lord Have Mercy"), the Gloria that follows ("Glory to God in the Highest"), a Collect (a short prayer), hearing of God's Word, a Gradual (with sung "alleluia's" to follow) and so forth and onward until the Eucharist is partook of.

Some of you may be thinking....*How boring!*

One of the reasons why I am such an advocate for historical liturgical forms is because the liturgy itself becomes one main way in which we admit our failings and experience the grace of God. When I was upset about how we confessed in the other Presbyterian Church, I assumed the Confession was always the responsibility of the individual in the pews and the Affirmation was a statement offered by the pastor on behalf of God.

Ancient liturgies offer a different approach. The liturgy itself takes us on a journey of communally expressing our need for forgiveness and being reminded that God and God alone continually offers us forgiveness, love, and mercy.

On Sunday mornings we do not simply confess sin in the allotted portion of the Prayer of Confession, and we do not simply become affirmed by the hearing of the Words of Affirmation. Well-written liturgies, songs, sermons, and prayers take us on a journey of proclaiming truth, doubt, fear, affirmation, love, lament, and transgressions. The process is not a sacred equation. We don't say "I'm sorry" to God and something magical happens in return.

The liturgies of old and the liturgy we experience on Sunday mornings show us how this relationship between confession and affirmation works. It communicates to us a *process* of faith; not what the destination of faith looks like. It urges us to allow this process to reveal itself in our everyday living.

The extension of God's grace happens whether or not we confess "properly" or we do not confess at all. God's grace is manifest in so many ways through the liturgy we worship through on Sunday mornings and through the shared lives we are living as a community of UPC. Let us be attentive to our continual need to confess and our continual need to be affirmed by the love of our most gracious God.

Aaron Schultz

### Community Choir this Summer

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 dates for Community Choir are Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Aaron Schultz (aschultz@unitedpc.org) for more information.

### Ushers Needed

We are in need of ushers on Sunday mornings to help during the worship service with a few very important responsibilities. If you are interested, or would like to have more information, contact Aaron Schultz (aschultz@unitedpc.org) or Doug Neal (nealfarms1960@gmail.com).

### Faith in Action Sunday- Independence Village Worship

Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> is Faith in Action Sunday at UPC where we have the opportunity to worship as a church family in the larger community of Peoria. One worship opportunity we are providing is a service of worship at Independence Village at 10:15am. Join us and the residents of Independence Village as we pray, sing, and hear a message together.

## Christian Education

### adult Classes

**Sunday 9:00am Education Hour will not meet during summer months. Enjoy your summer!**

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

Jesus' teachings and parables in the Gospel of Luke. **No Class on July 28.**

#### **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](mailto: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

#### **Quest Middle & High School Gatherings**

**Sunday, July 31st**

**4:00–6:00pm**

Movie Night for both groups.

We may do some small things at other times in July. Check your email to get the latest information.

\*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.

## Health and Wellness

### First Aid for the Eyes

Knowing what to do for an eye emergency can save valuable time and possibly prevent vision loss. Here are some instructions for basic eye injury first aid.

### Be Prepared

- Wear eye protection for all hazardous activities and sports-at school, home, and on the job.
- Stock a first aid kit with a rigid eye shield and commercial eyewash before an eye injury happens.
- DO NOT assume that any eye injury is harmless. When in doubt, see a doctor immediately.

### Chemical Burns to the Eye

In all cases of eye contact with chemicals:

- Immediately flush the eye with water or any other drinkable liquid. Hold the eye under a faucet or shower, or pour water into the eye using a clean container. Keep the eye open and as wide as possible while flushing. Continue flushing for at least 15 minutes.
- If a contact lens is in the eye, begin flushing over the lens immediately.
- DO NOT bandage the eye.
- Seek immediate medical treatment after flushing.

### Specks in the Eye

- DO NOT rub the eye
- Try to let tears wash the speck out or use an eye wash.
- Try lifting the upper eyelid outward and down over the lower lid.
- If the speck does not wash out, keep the eye closed, bandage it lightly, and see a doctor.

### Blows to the Eye

- Apply a cold compress without putting pressure on the eye. Crushed ice in a plastic bag can be taped to the forehead to rest gently on the injured eye.
  - In cases of pain, reduced vision, or discoloration (black eye), seek emergency medical care. Any of these symptoms could mean internal eye damage.
- Cuts and Punctures of the Eye or Eyelid
- DO NOT wash out the eye with water or any other liquid.
  - DO NOT try to remove an object that is stuck in the eye.

- Cover the eye with a rigid shield without applying pressure. The bottom half of a paper cup can be used.
- See a doctor immediately.

For more information on eye safety, email [info@preventblindness.org](mailto:info@preventblindness.org), or call 1-800-331-2020.

Be Well,  
Kirsten Tharp RN, BSN

## Session Notes

RE Commissioner, Laurie Hartshorn, reported on the Presbytery Assembly of June 14, 2016. Rev. Dr. Alan Finnan was elected to be our General Presbyter. He will begin in mid-July. Rev. Dr. Andrew Gifford was elected to be the Transitional Gap Presbyter from June 1 to July 15, 2016. Laurie also reported that there will be an increase in the per capita in 2017.

Session voted to approve the following:

- That Deacon Reorganization proceed in the direction outlined in a document from Member Care. Deacons will learn the reorganization plan at the July meeting.
- The Baptism of Cyril Lohnes, Madelyn Lohnes, and Maisy Lohnes, children of Rob Lohnes and Clay Giese with Alexis Presseau Maloof, Zachary Maloof, Jenna Rump Hague and M. Evan Hague as sponsors for all three children.
- The building usage for a Craft and Vendor Fair on November 10 as a fundraiser for the Youth Group.
- To approve the request from Properties to use Foundation funds from the building maintenance account up to a maximum of \$1500 for the emergency repairs to the A/C unit that serves Room 207.

Fred Roland, the Chair of Foundation was given privilege of the floor to explain the process for requesting funds from Foundation. Session signed up to write devotionals for the 2016 Advent Devotional and selected potential dates for Elder /Deacon education sessions in the fall. And they voted in favor of no scheduled Session meeting in July.

## Mission

### Faith in Action Sunday

Faith in Action Sunday is Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. This year, we will take worship to Independence Village at 10:15am. We have also been invited back to worship with Zion Baptist Church at 10:30am at Zion. At UPC, you'll be able to make snack packs for Northmoor Elementary students, Lastly, help set up for VBS at the church, or Fleece Tie blankets. Lastly, you can help the Jewish Federation clean buttons for the new Holocaust Memorial or help with outdoor work at Common Place. If you'd like to do one of these options, please sign up in the church office or at the Welcome Center Bulletin Board. We hope you can join us for one of these missional activities.

### Helping a Family In Need

Last a month a family contacted the church because they heard we support foster families and children in Peoria. One of the local agencies knew about our work and suggested they contact us. This family had just taken custody of a relative who was taken from her parents. Imagine having a two year old suddenly dropped in your lap when you are already financially struggling, but you don't want to see this child go to an unknown foster family; you want to take care of your own family if you can.

The family wanted to keep her and help her but didn't know where to turn or what to do. The little girl didn't even have shoes. Her new guardians wheeled her into the church in a small stroller that had seen better days.

We were able to help immediately with a few needs. We gave the family one of the gift cards we keep at the church and a box of diapers, and a brand new book for the little girl, who was so excited to receive that. She had no book and no toys. We also put them in touch with some of our contacts who help foster families with clothes and other needs. The family also said they didn't have a bed for the little girl.

So, the church stepped into action. Some of our families with young children were contacted to see if anyone had old clothes that could be donated, toys, unused toiletries, and other things that families often have extras have. The church came through. Two days later, a delivery was made to this family with a bed, a new stroller, several gift cards, bags of clothes, books and toys, toiletries, and good food for a toddler.

Thank you for being a generous community and responding to a need. This is just one example of the many ways you make a difference in our community. We may not change the world all at once, but we made a big impact on one little girl's life.

### Snack Pack

We fill Snack Packs on Faith in Action Sunday 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 throughout the school year. We fill a month's worth of bags every fourth Sunday of the month after worship, and we need your 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

## News and Notes

### Capturing Gods Natural World

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. An informational meeting will be held after church on July 10 and rules will be available at the welcome center.

### Deacon Quarterly Meeting Reminder

There will be a Deacon Quarterly meeting on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. This is a particularly important meeting so we want all who can, to attend.

## Church Life

### UPC Summer Picnic, Saturday August 27

The annual UPC summer picnic returns on August 27, 11am-2pm at the Lower Bradley Park pavilion. We provide the chicken, you provide the side dishes. We will have live music, human foosball (back by popular demand) and other games. Come join the fun!

### Bus Trips

Mark your calendars for our fall bus trip on Sept. 10 to Fulton, IL. Details coming soon. Contact Charlotte Cronin or Pastor Patricia with your ideas for future bus trips.

### Rummage Sale July 29-30

Start saving your stuff. Donations will be accepted Friday, July 22nd through Tuesday, July 26th. Please no computers, TV's or adult clothing. Volunteers are needed to set-up, work the sale, and clean-up. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex or let Trish in the church office know.

### UPC Hiking Group

**July 10** - 8:00am Sunday before church meet at Alta trail head and hike the Rock Island then come to church.

**July 27** - 5:30pm Wednesday meet at Granite City in East Peoria, hike the trail there and then dinner at Granite City.

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.

### Eating Together

Men's Breakfast: July 14th at 9:00 am at Le Peep

Local Lunch: July 18th at 12:00 pm at Lou's Drive-In (if it rains we'll go to Brienzo's Wood Fired Pizza in Junction City)

Ladies Night Out: July 21st at 6:00pm at Red Lobster, Peoria.

RSVP: Eunice @ 688-8458 or Betty @822-8500

Thursday Lunch Bunch: July 21st, at 11:30 am at Olive Garden.

## Thanks

Dear UPC Family,

Kathy & I have returned from my surgical trip to Detroit and we are very optimistic. I want to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers, the cards, the phone calls, the emails, the text's and the flowers. We have truly felt an abundance of caring from the UPC community. Thank you, Dave Nixon

The Presbytery of Great Rivers would like to thank United Presbyterian Church for graciously hosting our committee meetings. It is wonderful to have our meetings at such a welcoming facility. Please accept this donation as our way of thanking you for always being so helpful with the meetings.

Amy Gardner & Patti Parrish

Dear Friends at UPC,

Thank you for your donation to the Retreat & Refresh Stroke Camp. The Chime Stokers thoroughly enjoyed performing for you and being a part of your lovely church service. Our public performances are rewarding for us both personally and as a group. We hope you enjoyed the much!

Marylee Nunley, Executive Director

Just a small token of "thanks" to United Presbyterian Church for my home communion which I greatly appreciate. Many thanks & Blessings,

Mary Jermac

## Stephen Ministry

**Have you been wondering how God's light can shine through you?**

**Have you ever thought of becoming a Stephen Minister?**

Stephen Ministers share the light of God to others who are going through dark places in their lives. You might think, "How can I do this?" "I wouldn't know the right things to say to someone who is having a difficult time."

If you feel you would like to respond to Jesus' love by showing that love to others by becoming a Stephen Minister, you will be provided with 50 hours of training. You will also receive the support of the active Stephen Ministers and the pastors.

A training class will be offered soon. If you pray about it and think Stephen Ministry might be the way that you can let Christ's light shine through you, please contact one of the pastors or Stephen Leader Linda Fortin at 309-691-1709.