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July 16-20, 2017
6:00pm—8:30pm

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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.

Full of Confidence and Love

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the most difficult ministry challenges of all is saying goodbye to a Church family you have loved and been loved by. Words seem utterly inadequate to express the feelings I hold for you. I pray the Holy Spirit who lives in each of us may somehow carry the depths of my love from my heart to yours. I want to thank all of you for the many ways you allowed me to be your pastor. As the years go by I will look back fondly on our time together; I hope the same will be true for you.

We have done much together in my time here. We have experienced the highs of being in community through weddings and baptisms, welcoming new members, creating new educational, mission, and worship experiences, and starting a preschool. We have also shared in some deeply challenging events as we've had to say goodbye to staff, pastors, and members. Together, we served our community and each other. We realized a few dreams, lived through a few trials, and persevered.

I believe United is strong and faithful church ready to embark on a new chapter of ministry with each other. I will depart Peoria confident of several things:

First, you are an awesome Church and God has great plans for you. Your faith and trust in Jesus has brought you to a place of abundant fruitfulness. I believe your impact for Christ's Kingdom can be even stronger in the days to come than in the days gone by.

Second, the path ahead is clear. Even though you must now resolve a question of senior pastor leadership, there is in no way a leadership void in this great Church. Your staff, Elders and Deacons are prepared to pursue and fulfill the plans which God has put in the heart of this congregation. You have a vision, you have physical plans, ministry plans, financial plans and spiritual plans. Follow them in God's power and "watch and see" what God will yet accomplish! You will continue to grow and nurture followers of Christ in welcoming community.

Finally, more than anything, I am confident of the love you have for God and for one another. And I am even more confident of the love God has for you. My prayer is that, if there is any legacy from my tenure of service at United Presbyterian Church, it will be a deep and abiding awareness of the power of love to change our lives and to change the world.

You will always remain in my heart and in my prayers. Now remain in Christ, knowing that He will remain in you.

In common calling and love,
Pastor Stephen

Human Resources

Join Us in Celebrating the Ministry of Stephen McKinney-Whitaker

Please join us in celebrating the eight-year ministry of Stephen McKinney-Whitaker at United Presbyterian Church. He will preach his closing sermon on Sunday, July 2, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a reception immediately following in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a basket provided for cards and honorarium, as well as dietary delights of questionable origin. Stephen has requested a leather-bound book where members and friends can record their thoughts and comments that he can bring to Hershey with him. This book will be available at the reception and also in the church office from June 26 through July 6.

Please join us on the 2nd so we can send Stephen, Courtney, and Verity to Pennsylvania with "God's good grace"!

The HR Committee

We Remain Open for Business

Dear UPC Church Members and Friends,

The HR Committee and the staff of UPC wanted to reassure you that all phases of our church life will continue through our transition period following the departure of Stephen. We will certainly notice his absence, but nothing will be curtailed, delayed, or ignored during this time. The staff is secure in their job responsibilities and comfortable with additional tasks they've been asked to do. Definitive lists have been made and understood. Our auxiliary staff has agreed to step up and serve when needed. Our church leaders and volunteers will anchor and lead as needed. Whether it is a question, problem, prayer, birth, death, wedding, funeral, property, etc, we are prepared to respond to your needs. Faces may change, but procedures remain the same.

While the Interim Pastor Search Committee is working diligently, there may be a time gap between the departure of Stephen and the hiring of an interim pastor. If this were to happen, HR would appoint a Coordinating Elder who will serve as the Acting Head of Staff. Again, we would remain at full service.

The purpose of the Interim Pastor is to prepare UPC for the next step of extending a call to a permanent pastor. In order to do this, we will go through a study of who and what we are, our goals and expectations, our hopes and plans for the future. Their goal is not to grow or change the church, but help us explore where we are, where we are going, and how we will get there.

While this is a time of anticipation and, perhaps, uncertainty, your church will be here to continue to serve you and the Lord.

Thank you,
Alicia McKeighan
Colleen Rouzer
HR Co-Chairmen

Worship & Arts

VIVID

No VIVID in July.

Join us Sunday, August 6 at 4:00pm
Due to a lot of summer fun with the Mission Trip, VBS and the 4th of July holiday week-end, there will be no VIVID this month. Join us in August as we celebrate summer and bless the start of a new school year.

Preaching Schedule- July 2017

July 2nd- Pastor Stephen
July 9th- (*Refugee Sunday*)- Jenna Hague and the Good Neighbor Team
July 16th - *Faith in Action Sunday*
July 23rd- Anna Saxon
July 30th- Karen Miller

Refugee Sunday at UPC-July 9th

On Sunday, July 9th we will have a special service at UPC. The Good Neighbor Team will be working with me to design a worship service centering around themes of justice and the refugee crisis. All over the country and world people will be celebrating Refugee Sunday this summer. Through our worship on Refugee Sunday we aspire to demonstrate welcome through our actions to refugees and asylum seekers, learn more about refugees and asylum seekers, witness the recent and faithful work of the Good Neighbor Team at UPC, engage in practical action to take an active stance to promote more generous and welcoming refugee policies, and pray, sing, and hope for the end of the conflicts around the world. Following the service, there will be tables set up in the Fellowship Hall for individuals to find a way in which they can tangibly serve refugee populations based on your interests and strengths.

Leading up to Sunday, July 9th use the hash tags [#wechoosewelcome](#) and [#upc4refugees](#) on Facebook and tag Scripture, images, or videos that remind you of the Christian values of welcome, hospitality, and love for the stranger. We will be displaying these images during the service.

Community Choir

The Community Choir is back! This group is designed for anyone who likes to sing. You do not have to be trained, you do not need to read music, and you don't have to have any choir experience! The goal is to meet the singers in the Chancel Choir, have fun singing, and offer music to God and the community in worship. If you have wanted to sing with a group, or have sung with a group but can't commit to weekly rehearsal, this opportunity is for you.

On the third Sunday of the summer months (June, July, and August) we will have a rehearsal in the sanctuary at 9:00am to learn the music. Then, the Community Choir will sing for the prelude and then head back to their seats so everyone can be in the pews for the rest of the service.

The Community Choir will sing two more times this summer. On July 16th, the Community Choir will be singing at Independence Village. The residents love to hear music, and this will be a really meaningful way to share music with them. A lot of the residents at Independence Village grew up in church traditions where the choir was central to their sacred music. But often times they do not get to hear choir music at Independence Village. In preparation for this service, we will meet at United Presbyterian Church at 9:00am to learn the music. At 9:45am, we will car-pool over to Independence Village and worship with the residents there.

The last opportunity to sing with the Community Choir is on Sunday, August 20th.

If you have any questions, please let me know. If not, I hope to see you at one or both of these gatherings.

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, Sharon Gulley, Betty Keller, Debbie Sullivan, Scott Grubbs, and Dick West.

Breathe Easy This Summer

Pollution, pollen, and humidity can make summer precarious for people with asthma. Asthma, a chronic lung disease that inflames and narrows airways, can cause shortness of breath, coughing and other symptoms. In summertime, triggers for asthma attacks abound.

To prevent flare-ups:

- **Pay attention to pollen counts.** Exposure to pollen can make asthma worse, so people with asthma should stay indoors when counts are high. Many asthma sufferers benefit from taking an over the counter daily anti-histamine when pollen counts go up.
- **Avoid exposure to air pollution.** Limit time outdoors when air quality forecasts indicate levels are high. Close windows, and keep air conditioning on.
- **Reduce indoor humidity.** Keep an eye on the air quality within in your home. Warm summer breezes do feel great but sometimes running the air conditioner is the best solution for people with asthma.
- **Be aware of chemicals.** Be aware of lurking chemicals that might cause an attack, such as chlorine in swimming pools or cleaning products.
- **Take medication as prescribed.** Taking medication as prescribed by your physician is an easy way to prevent and treat symptoms. Make sure you understand what the medication is used for and whether it is a daily preventative or a rescue medication.

For more information check out www.mayoclinic.org
Kirsten Tharp RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

Grief Gathering

Grief Gathering (For Parents Experiencing the Loss of a Child) will be held on Friday, July 14 at 12:00pm in Room 100. We will continue on a six part journey through grief geared specifically for parents who have experienced the loss of a child. Wherever you are in your grief journey- you are welcome. This group will meet monthly, the second Friday of the month through November. Call the office to sign up. Contact Kirsten Tharp with questions.

Stephen Ministry

Get in on the Action

Would you like to be part of ministry that makes a real difference in others' lives when they need it most—and in you own? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who provide one-to-one caring ministry to people experience grief, divorce, loneliness, job loss, hospitalization and many other life difficulties.

Stephen Minister training equips you to do an excellent job as a Stephen Minister as well as to improve the quality of all your relationships. Topics include listening, feeling, confidentiality, providing Christian care, maintaining boundaries, crisis theory and practice, and many more.

Once equipped Stephen Ministers are prayerfully matched with people who are going through a stressful time or life difficulty. A Stephen Minister meets with this person once a week for about an hour to listen, care, encourage, and pray. The Stephen Minister brings Christ's presence into the person's life and also experiences Christ in the other person. It is really a life changing ministry for both the care receiver and the Stephen Minister.

United Presbyterian would like to expand our Stephen Minister program by training more Stephen Ministers. Won't you prayerfully consider signing up for the training class to begin this fall. It may be one of the most life changing decisions you will make. Please see Stan Strickler or Linda Fortin to volunteer to become another of our awesome Stephen ministers.

Mission

Faith in Action Sunday

Faith in Action Sunday is July 16th. There are a number of opportunities to get involved for all ages including:

- Worship at Independence Village- Meet at the church to drive over together at 9:45am or meet at Independence Village at 10:00am to worship alongside the residents in a service led by Aaron Schultz.
- Working at Common Place- This year's project will include interior painting and general clean up. Please meet at Common Place (514 S Shelley St, Peoria, IL 61605) at 9:00am.
- Set-up for Vacation Bible School- Meet Karen in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00am to help set-up and prepare for Vacation Bible School
- Making fleece blankets with "Share the Warmth"- Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am to help make and tie fleece blankets for this important ministry.

Food on the Fourth

Food on the Fourth is July 24th. Don't forget to bring your food to help fill our local food pantries.

Church Life

Eating Together

Men's Breakfast: July 13th at Le Peep, 9:00am.

Local Lunch: Join Aaron Schultz at Lou's Drive in on Monday, July 17th at 12:00pm.

Ladies Night Out: July 20th, 6:00pm, Steak 'n Shake, East Peoria. RSVP to 699-8080. Come early and visit.

United Presbyterian Church!



Donations Accepted

Friday, July 28th - Tuesday, August 1st

Help with Unloading Available

Friday and Saturday July 28th & 29th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ABSOLUTELY NO COMPUTERS! NO TVs! NO ADULT CLOTHING!!!!

Thanks

Dear members and friends,

There is nothing quite like the feeling of stepping back into the sanctuary at UPC on a Sunday morning after a several week absence. The feeling of empathy and caring almost overwhelms you! You *know* it is where you belong. Thank you all so much for your cards, calls, and prayers during my recent surgery. You send a palatable presence! While I'm now down to nine toes, I'm recovering nicely--sandals just aren't in my future. You are powerful prayers!

Colleen Rouzer

I thank all for the prayers and for the many cards, the flowers, the calls, and the PRAYER SHAWL. I thank Kirsten for the visits and encouragement. Hope to be back in church soon.

Nadine Moore

Thank you so much for your donation to the Esther House. I understand this is from closing out the account of the Ruth Circle. I have no doubt the circle has been a blessings, first to all of you, and through you to so many others. Be assured that this money will go towards helping women find and follow Christ. May God richly bless you.

The Esther House

Children and Youth

Children's Sunday School

Cinema Sundays

Ages 3 & up

Summer Sunday mornings after the Time for Young Disciples, children will be escorted upstairs for an all ages short video and discussion. If the weather is nice, they can be picked up on the playground after worship. As always, you are encouraged to stay in worship with your children if you choose. This summer we are hoping to add more hands on activities for children in the Sanctuary.

Youth

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.

R.U.S.H. & QUEST – will not formally meet in July. If that changes, an email will be sent.

Rummage Sale Help-Unloading

Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29

10:00am—12:00pm

We will need as many youth as possible for one or both of the days to help people unload items they want to donate to the sale. Please make plans to be there for these dates or the actual sale dates listed below. Proceeds help us pay for our mission trip.

Rummage Sale Help-At Sale

Friday, August 4 and Saturday, August 5

8:00am—1:00pm

Again, as many youth as possible for these dates, with Friday until 1:00pm being the most crucial. If you can do a couple of hours on either day, let Karen know those times. This is a huge fundraiser for our mission trip.

News and Notes

Interim Pastor Search Committee Report

Your Search Committee for an Interim Pastor has been hard at work. The Committee members are Charlotte Cronin, Richard Helm, Zachary Maloof, Alicia McKeighan, Kathy Nordvall, Colleen Rouzer, and Chair, Mary Jo Mays. We are reviewing Personal Information Forms (PIF's) of several applicants. We will interview those who have the background we need. If we find an applicant who likes us as much as we like the applicant, we will arrange for the applicant to meet with the entire Session. If they agree, we have to go through proper channels to hire. It is important for us to find an interim pastor who can take us through a mission and vision study. This will give direction to the future pastoral search committee and give future applicants a clear picture of our church and the direction we want to go as a church. This activity is long overdue. While we are blessed with a strong and vibrant church, it is important for all of us to take advantage of this moment and think about the future of United Presbyterian Church. What are our strengths, what are our dreams and how can we grow our mission in Christ in the future?

Deacon Quarterly Meeting Reminder

The next Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Deacons will be Saturday, July 8th, at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. The Visiting Deacons will meet for training with Kirsten Tharp 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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Communion 10:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Worship & Arts	3 Office Closed	4 Office Closed	5 1:30 Tai Chi	6 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Bereavement	7	8 10:00 Deacon Quarterly Meeting 2:00 Alex Lysdahl Ordination
9 Blood Pressure Screening 10:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship	10 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Tai Chi 6:00 Foundation 6:00 Properties 6:30 Church Life @ Cronin's	11 10:00 Independence Village 1:30 Tai Chi 3:00 Bereavement 6:30 HR/ Stewardship/ Families Anonymous	12 1:30 Tai Chi	13 8:30 Exercise 9:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Bereavement	14 12:00 Grief Gathering	15
16 Faith In Action Sunday	17 8:30 Exercise 12:00 Local Lunch @Lou's Drive-in NO Tai Chi	18 1:30 Tai Chi 3:00 Bereavement 6:30 Families Anonymous 7:00 Session	19 10:00 ANG 1:30 Tai Chi	20 8:30 Exercise 11:30 PASGK 6:00 Ladies Night Out @ Steak 'n Shake, E Peoria NO Bereavement	21	22
Vacation Bible School 6:00pm—8:30pm						
23 10:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship	24 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Tai Chi	25 10:00 Independence Village 11:30 PASGNP 1:30 Tai Chi 3:00 Bereavement 6:30 Families Anonymous 6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision	26 9:30 PASGSS 1:30 Tai Chi	27 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Bereavement	28 Begin Receiving Rummage Sale Items.	29
30 10:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship	31 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Tai Chi		<div>July 2017</div>			