

United
Presbyterian
Church
of Peoria, Illinois

The Chimes

A publication of United Presbyterian Church
Peoria, IL



Volume.14 Issue.1 February 22, 2017



VIVID

a worship experience

interactive. intergenerational. illuminating.

Sunday, March 5 @ 4pm

An intergenerational worship service featuring...

- informal environment where all are welcome
- engaging with the Bible in a new way
 - hands-on and collaborative activities
 - a healthy meal starting at 5pm

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Calendar for March 2017

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.

What is Lent?

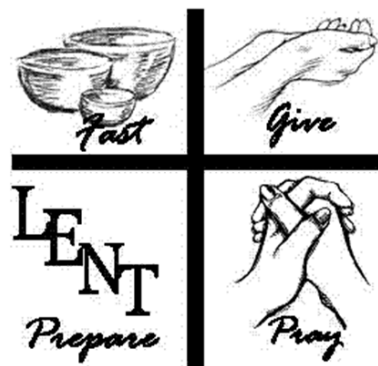
The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter, or Resurrection, Sunday. The forty days of Lent begin Ash Wednesday and end at dusk the Saturday before Easter, not counting the Sundays in between. The Sundays during Lent, like every Sunday, are considered weekly celebrations of the resurrection. Many churches encourage disciples to renew and strengthen their faith during Lent. Plans are made for community-wide Lenten preparation through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fasting, and service. Lent is a great time to start coming to Connecting Point. This month, our new Women for Peace and Justice group will be leading a Bible Study on Gender and Justice that was written by the Biblical Association of the Church of Ireland. You can learn more about this study on the Christian Education Page. Lent is also a good time to start coming to the Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:00am as we take a fresh look at how to understand, read, and engage with the Bible (you can learn more on the Christian Education page).

Lent is also a good time to start a new missional practice. Perhaps you can start helping with filling Snack Packs on the fourth Sunday of the month. Maybe you could try giving up one meal or snack you normally eat out and donate that money or food to a food pantry. Could you volunteer to visit with one of our home-bound members or drive someone to a doctor's appointment? There are many ways you can grow, serve, and prepare for Easter.

This preparation is a historical model from the early church. New believers were mentored in the Christian faith weeks before Easter, preparing for their baptisms at the Great Easter Vigil. The idea of giving something up for Lent came out of this tradition, when fasting—abstaining from food as an act of discipline in solidarity with others in the community—was used to raise one's spiritual consciousness and empty oneself before God. Fasting or giving up something for Lent can be a good way to explore a deeper expression of faith, if not adopted as a show of piety, martyrdom, or moral righteousness. Presbyterians may find it meaningful to give something up for Lent, but it is not required. Some disciples may find a more valuable spiritual exercise in taking something on during Lent—a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity. Whatever spiritual disciplines and preparations are embraced during Lent, they can help us prepare for or renew our baptisms as part of the resurrection celebration at Easter.

This Lent, our theme in worship is Jars of Clay: Treasures in Fragile Faith. 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.

In common calling,
Pastor Stephen



Stewardship & Finance

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.

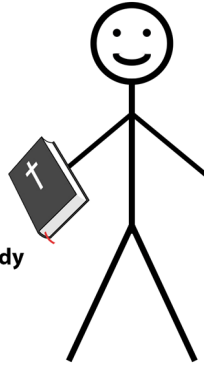
Larry doesn't have to worry about envelopes, checks, or mailing his gift if he's out of town or misses church.

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.

Budget Talk

Over the last couple months, we have had a lot of discussion about the financial status of United Presbyterian Church. One of the financial items that are very important is the church budget. Each year all of the committees of the church submit an estimate of anticipated expenses to the Church Financial Secretary, Sabrina McGrath. These are usually compiled in September or early October. The expense reports are then sent to Stewardship & Finance Committee for review. These expenses are the starting point for the expense budget. The income budget is developed by Stewardship & Finance Committee based on the total of pledges from the congregation, other sources of income, and Foundation income. The income budget is usually finalized at the end of December. These developed Income and Expense figures are reviewed and finalized and then presented to the Session to approve the church budget. This year Session will adopt a tentative budget due to the dissolution of the Associate Pastor Position and the refinancing of the mortgage for the building. Expense figures will be available for a final budget in February, 2017. The tentative budget shows Income of \$979,570.00 and Expenses before principal payments for the mortgage of \$978,054.00 leaving an excess of income to expenses of \$1,518.00. When the projected mortgage principal payments of \$48,000 are applied, the result is a cash flow deficit of (\$46,484.00). If you have questions about the budget or the process, please feel free to talk with me,

Dave Nixon,
Church Treasurer

News and Notes

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.

UPC Women for Justice and Peace received Session approval in February. Our first event will be a Lenten Connecting Point class on Gender Justice led by Alexis Presseau Maloof and Courtney McKinney-Whitaker.

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.

Worship & Arts

Ash Wednesday

We will host an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, March 1st at 6:00pm that will serve as our entry point to our Lenten theme of "Jars of Clay: Treasures in Fragile Faith." You are invited to enjoy a meal together before the service beginning at 5:15pm. We will mark our foreheads with ash and celebrate communion as we begin the Lenten journey together. You will also have the opportunity to take home a special reminder of how God is with us and for us, even in our brokenness.

We will also host two short services of Ash, without communion, during the day so that preschool children and their parents can participate in this ancient ritual at 8:45am and 12:45pm. Anyone is welcome to join our preschool families for a short service of song and the imposition of the ashes in a family-friendly atmosphere.



VIVID Worship on March 5th

VIVID worship is coming to UPC, starting on March 5th at 4:00pm. 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.

VIVID will meet in the Fellowship Hall and begin with fun and easy songs that all ages can enjoy singing together and a Bible Story. This month, our story will be focused on the season of Lent and we will engage in a group art project together that will be displayed in the church. We end with a shared meal together at 5:00pm. We'll have some home-made soups and a salad bar.

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.

Sunday Worship Schedule-March 2017

March 5th:

2 Cor 4:7-18 "The Gift of Ministry" Pastor Stephen

March 12th:

John 18:33-38a "The Gift is Better Than the Vessel" Pastor Stephen

March 19th:

Mark 1:12-15, 6:14-29 "Cracked Courage" Pastor Stephen

March 26th:

Mark 9:14-29 "Help My Unbelief" Pastor Stephen

Worship & Arts

Worship as Experience

What comes into your mind when you hear “worship experience?”

When I hear that term, something very specific enters into my imagination. Bright lights, loud music, smoke, technically savvy, visually appealing, screens with a worship band projected on them, bass drum thumping in my chest, emotionally provoking, and a spectacular and hyped experience.

Have you ever seen or participated in this type of worship? So much of what we see in these types of gatherings is “*worship as singular event*”. Let me explain.

When people say something like “I loved worship today”, or “I just really got a lot out of worship on Sunday”, or “I don’t really like that kind of worship”, people are generally referring to a singular and personal experience of songs, prayers, and/or a sermon. It is an event that happens in a particular time and place to a particular person. So in this way the “worship experience” is singular and often subjective and individualistic.

Philosopher Peter Rollins says this about a worship experience; “Religious experience is not an experience of anything, it’s what transforms your experience of everything.” In other words, worship as experience is not about the creation of particular time with God, it is how all of the experiences of life are fundamentally transformed by the experience of God through worship.

When the programming staff gets together and plans the worship on Sundays, we are not attempting to force a certain pre-designed experience on behalf of the people gathered. We are not manufacturing anything to be consumed in such a way. Instead, we are collecting, writing, re-writing, and sharing a sacred Story that is continually unfolding, and through engagement with this Story we are fundamentally changed and our experience of life is therefore fundamentally changed. This experience, like the Story itself, is not confined to a singular time and space.

When we sing about the unfailing love of God, the experience changes the way in which we love our spouses, children, family, and neighbor. When we consistently ask forgiveness to God and others around us, the experience changes how we treat others who continually offend us. When we are nourished at the Table, it changes how we understand abundance and scarcity. When we are able to approach God in prayer with truth and vulnerability, it changes how we see the most vulnerable in our community.

I hope when you worship within the walls of UPC that you are confronted with God in such a way that forces you to experience the commonplace moments of your life in a new way, rendering those common and re-occurring moments thoroughly sacred and thoroughly transformed.

Aaron Schultz

Hymns and Hops

You are invited to join us for Hymns and Hops on March 26th at 7:00pm at the Fox Pub. We’ll be singing some favorite Lent, Good Friday, and Easter hymns. All are welcome.



March 26, 7pm

The Fox Pub

Worship & Arts Cont'd

St. Patrick's Day Celtic Worship Service Tuesday, March 14th at 7:00pm

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day in worship and communion. Liturgists and musicians will lead us in the Celtic song and prayers, giving glory to God for the inspiring faith of Patrick of Ireland.

Why Patrick? And why Celtic? Presbyterians actually share heritage with the Celtic Christian Tradition, hence why many Presbyterian churches have a Celtic Cross. The earliest Celtic crosses were carved out of stone with the endless circle linking the upright and the crossbeams of the cross. The circle was intended to convey the ancient harmony and the relationship of all things which are held together through Christ as well as eternal life through the Risen One who is with us always. The Celtic church of the 5th and 6th centuries was one of the most spiritually vibrant churches in the world. It traces its origins with Patrick of Ireland. From Ireland, missionaries carried the faith to Scotland (the birthplace of American Presbyterian faith.)

Please note the change of day. It will be on Tuesday March 14th at 7:00pm. Hope to see you there!



News and Notes

Thank you very much for your prayers for Jack and me. Kirsten's visit at the hospital and the red rose while I was there were very thoughtful. Jack I enjoyed our visit with Lilli and the Valentine's. Keep me in your prayers please. Marilyn Umdenstock

Thank you to for contribution to the Look It's My Book program. Our mission statement pledges our intent to provide free books to the kindergarten through fourth grade student of Peoria Public School throughout each year. In everything we do, we believe that reading changes children's lives forever. You are helping to change lives!

Janet Roth, President, Look It's My Book!

My Dear UPC Family,

There are not enough words to express my love and gratitude for all the prayers, well wishes, cards and visits during my surgical hospitalization and recovery. My red rose is still blooming and smells wonderful – as only a rose can! Visits from Pastor Stephen and Anna Saxon were so welcome and very heart warming. Very special thanks to Kirsten Tharp for service way above and beyond the call of duty. She has made this long road to recovery so much more bearable. I am still not allowed to drive and am very limited to activities, but hope to be back in church soon. And singing – oh, how I have missed that! Again, thank you all so very much!

Love in Christ,
Pauline Harris

Dear UPC Congregation,

Thank you so much for the beautiful and yummy celebration of our ministry years together. Thank you to each and every one of you who came and helped me to feel the love that UPC is noted for. I so appreciated the many cards and gifts, and for the congregational gift of the gorgeous flowers and the beautiful and soft light teal scarf. I will think of you all each time I wear it.

I also wish to thank the anonymous donor of cash and the one who gave me the beautiful maroon scarf with no card attached. How wonderfully thoughtful you all are. I thank God for the ministry opportunity we shared together.

Patricia Stetson-Warning

Member Care

Home Communion

Did you know that volunteers and staff at UPC take communion to many members and friends who cannot get to worship to participate in the sacrament? On the Monday following Communion, teams of two visit homes, nursing homes, and retirement communities to bring communion to those who desire it. We also celebrate communion with residents at Independence Village during our worship there. This is just one way we care for members who cannot attend worship. If you are interested in helping with home communion, please let Pastor Stephen or Pat Weinkauff know. We have a team that goes on Monday morning and one that goes Monday afternoon. We are always looking for volunteers to help share this sacrament with our friends.

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, Mary Everett, Connie Knoblauch (sister of Judi Beck), Lilli Miller (Lois Hultgren's granddaughter) 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 Corda Jones. We thank God for the gift of her life.

Save the Date

The Meet Your Deacon Potluck will be April 30th after worship. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. More information will follow.

Thank You Notes

Just a note to say thank you to everyone who offered prayers for me when I was in the hospital. Special thank you to Stephen for the visit, Kirsten for the phone calls and for the beautiful red rose. Thank you for the cards & get well wishes. What a wonderful church family we all have.
Theresa Bender

Dear United Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for your per capita contribution for 2016. We appreciate your continued support of presbytery and your dedication to faithful stewardship.
In Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle
Administration Team, PGR

Dear UPC Family,
Thank you for all the prayers said for Nathan Pennington during his long illness. Thank you for all your cards and love shown to my family and me. You are truly a caring congregation.
Love and prayers,
Lois Hultgren

Thank you to everyone for their kind words and lovely sympathy cards after the death of my brother, Jerry. Terry and I are blessed to belong to such a loving church.
Nancy Thompson

Thank you to all the people that took part in the Valentine program. It was all so nice and made me so happy to get them and to think of me after all these years. Special thanks to the Deacon, Rose Schmollinger, that brought my Valentine bag to me. I enjoyed her visit so much.
Cyrene Eberle

Thanks to Audrey Beeney for announcing facts about the exercise group. I love it! Rose Dickerson

Health & Wellness

STRESS... and Finding RELIEF

We all have stress in our lives. It can be in the form of inconveniences, chronic problems or major life issues and events. Stress can come from long lines at the store or from the demands at home or work. We can also be stressed by the loss of a loved one or by holding deep resentment against someone.

When we experience or think about a stressful situation, our brain activates the nervous and endocrine systems to prepare to fight or flight. Hormones and chemicals like cortisol and adrenaline are released into the body. These hormones result in an increase in metabolism, blood pressure and heart rate and can have other physiological effects that are harmful if they are continually released for long periods of time.

Taking good care of your body is an important stress reliever. **Exercise, eating healthy, and getting adequate sleep** allow you to take be healthy both inside and out. A nice walk, healthy meal or good night's sleep can change your outlook and help you manage life's stressors.

Have you ever considered the impact your thinking has on your day to day quality of life? Are your thought patterns throughout the day negative or positive? Do not fall victim to "stinkin thinkin". When you are stressed it is easy to begin thinking negatively. **Changing your thinking from negative to positive** throughout the day can help reduce your stress.

Lastly, in Matthew 11:28, Jesus says, *"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."* He is right there, He is inviting you in and He costs nothing! I know the days I start off with devotional and Bible time go better than the days I just jump in with my own agenda.

We can all expect a certain degree of stress in our lives. How we handle the stress can make a huge impact. Use the above mentioned tools for a healthier and less-stressed life.

Kirsten Tharp
Parish Nurse

Finding Spring Again, is a FREE educational grief seminar presented by UnityPoint Hospice of Peoria. It will be held on Thursday, March 9 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Methodist Atrium building in Conference Room ABC. This event is open to the public. RSVP to 672-5746 by March 7. If you have questions or would like to attend with someone, please contact Kirsten Tharp

Safety of Seniors FREE Event

Saturday, March 18
at Limestone High School in Bartonville
9:00am – Noon

Learn information geared toward senior citizens from booths including:

Banking Security
Secretary of State Driver's License Mobile Unit
Fire Safety
Protection from Scams
Blood Pressure Screenings
Home Care
And many, many more

Call the church office to sign up and if you will need transportation. Contact Kirsten Tharp with questions.

News and Notes

Candy Donations Needed

UPC Easter Egg Hunt

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

Parent's Night Out

None in March

Christian Education

Sunday Education Hour at 9:00am

NOOMA Class (Library Room 106)

The intergenerational class led by Pastor Stephen is finishing a series on the central practices of the Christian faith like prayer, serving, giving, and community. We will begin a new series called "Nooma" featuring Rob Bell this month. Each week we'll watch a short video and have discussion. All are welcome to join us in the library at 9:00am

Journey Through the Bible (Heritage Room 107)

This Bible Study group is dedicated to growing in knowledge of God through what is revealed in the Bible, and is led by Don Baker. 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)

This month, the class is starting 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.



Eleven Minute Lessons

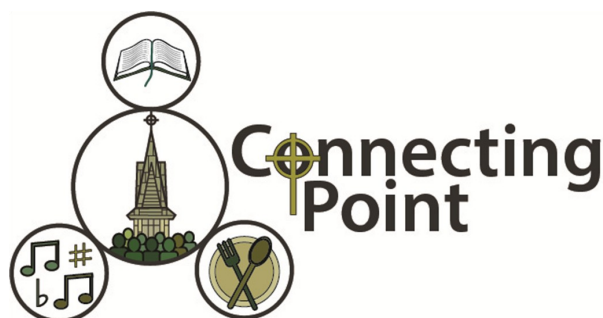
Eleven Minute Lessons continues each Sunday at 11:11am in room 107 with an in-depth study of Genesis. We are beginning to look at the story of the Flood and the tower of Babel this month.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

You are invited to join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00am for Bible Study. We are continuing our series called "Strange Book of Books," led by Pastor Stephen. As opposed to many studies, which focus on particular books of the Bible, or on a specific theme, this 10 part series steps stepping 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. We are a few weeks into the study, but it's never too late to join us to learn and discuss.

Waking Up White Book Discussion Group

The Waking Up White book club will conclude on Sunday, March 5th at 11:30am. We will read the last section "Reclaiming My Humanity" (pages 245-253). We will also discuss next steps for the book club and how we can get involved in anti-racist work in the future.



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.

March 8: Pushing Social Boundaries (Numbers 27:1-11, Matthew 15:21-28)

March 15: Sin, Responsibility, and Justice (Genesis 38, John 8:1-11)

March 22: Gentile Women in Nehemiah and Acts (Nehemiah 13, Acts 16:11-24)

March 29: NO CLASS, Game Night

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)

Mission

United Presbyterian Church Featured in iBi Peoria Magazine

Many of the articles in this month's Peoria Magazine's iBi issue on diversity feature connections to United Presbyterian Church. Jenna Hague, the chairperson of the Mission Committee co-wrote an article with a representative from Northminster Presbyterian about efforts to welcome a refugee family.

Alexis Presseau Maloof wrote an article about the urgent need to develop a shared literacy and common vocabulary to discuss race. Conversations about race can be fraught and tense; however, we can transform these conversations by expanding our knowledge of how sociologists define race and racism, while leaving behind the many myths about race that are prevalent in our culture.

The issue also features an article about Peace for Peoria and the No Joke Project. If you get a chance, check out these articles in the magazine or online. We'll also have copies at church when they are available.

Snack Packs

We will fill Snack Packs on March 26th 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.



Hands-On Mission Opportunity



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 OGHS or Projeto Amar on your check or on your offering envelope. Thank you.

News and Notes

Nott.

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. Soon a new group of 3rd - 5th graders will begin to meet a couple of times this school year to get them connecting outside of worship/Sunday school. Keep checking The Chimes for updates on this.

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, February 23

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, March 12

3:30 – 5:00pm

Regular meeting with devotion and games.

QUEST

Older High School Youth

Sunday, March 12

5:00 – 6:30pm

We will continue discussion and documentary series with some games as well.

Knocker ball

UPC Gym

Sunday, March 26

4:00-6:00pm

Youth group will host some games of Knocker ball in the gym for older youth (12+) and adults. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

Children and Youth

Children's Education Hour-9:00am

Children will be hearing the Bible stories through a very special "Brick Bible" and encouraged to recreate the stories themselves with our huge stash of Legos. It is a fun and creative way to hear the stories again and solidify them.

Children's Sunday School

2nd-4th Grade Fellowship Group

Sunday, February 26

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 second meeting where we will play games and have a snack. Contact Karen Miller for more information.

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

Church Life

Eating Together

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

Local Lunch: We will eat at Hokkaido on Monday, March 20th at 12:00pm. They have great sushi, but also classic Japanese, Chinese, and Thai dishes. All are welcome to join us.

Thursday Lunch Bunch: February 23rd at 11:30am at Perkins on War Memorial Drive.

Ladies Night Out: March 16th at 6:00pm at Avanti's on Knoxville.

Games

Hand and Foot: Friday, March 3rd, at 6:30pm.

Bunco: Friday, March 10th at 7:00pm. Bring a snack to share and a dollar for prizes. Everyone welcome.

Game Night: On Wednesday, March 22nd, bring your favorite game to play with friends at Connecting Point

Basketball Schedule: Come cheer on the team!
Feb. 28th 8:00pm with Mt Calvary Baptist
Mar. 7th 7:00pm with Redeemer Lutheran

Knockerball!

UPC GYM

Sunday, March 26

4:00-6:00pm

Youth group will host some games of Knockerball in the gym for older youth (12+) and adults. Cost is \$10 per person.

Spring Bus Trip

We are taking our bus out for a trip!

Join us as we head to Lewistown, IL to see Dickson Mounds (Museum of American Indian Artifacts), Big Horse Vineyards (for lunch on your own), and Emiquon Wildlife Refuge (1.5 mile road to drive through and can walk some if we like).

Saturday, April 1st

Bus Departs at 8:30am and returns approximately 4:00pm.

\$10 per person

Contact the church office to reserve a spot on the bus now!

Church Growth & Hospitality

Ushers Needed

Want to do a little something extra in service at the church? There is always a need for Greeters. Take a minute and contact Theresa Bender or the church office to volunteer today.

Lenten Invitation Challenge

This Lent, starting March 1st, the Church Hospitality and Growth Team is encouraging you to participate in the Lenten Invitation Challenge. We are challenging every to invite at least one person to worship with us during Lent. You can post invitations on Facebook, call a friend, mention it to a co-worker or someone at your gym.

We are a welcoming community, but sometimes that isn't enough. We need to be more than welcoming. We need to be inviting. Help us be an inviting community this Lent, starting March 5th. We are challenging you to be "One of the 2." Can you be one of the 2% of church members who invite someone to church this year? If you do invite someone to church, please let Pastor Stephen or Linda Kelley know.

