

United
Presbyterian
Church
of Peoria, Illinois

The Chimes

A publication of United Presbyterian Church
Peoria, IL



Volume.14 Issue.4 April 26, 2017



American
Red Cross



Be part of a lifesaving journey.
Donate blood.

Blood Drive **United Presbyterian Church**

Hall
2400 W. Northmoor Rd
Peoria, IL 61614

Monday, May 1, 2017
2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

For an appointment, call the church at 309-693-2002 or log-in to
www.redcrossblood.org (Enter Sponsor Code: UPC)

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May Calendar

Church Leadership**Session**

Laurie Hartshorn, Clerk of Session

Class of 2017

Mike Brown
Rich Helm
Betty Pugh
Colleen Rouzer
Jim Sullivan

Class of 2018

Jenna Hague
Mark Hanson
Linda Kelley
Ralph Krall
Cindy Shipley

Class of 2019

Charlotte Cronin
Mary Jo Mays
Alicia McKeighan
Megan McKeighan
Kathy Nordvall

Board of Deacons**Class of 2017**

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

Class of 2018

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

Class of 2019

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

Session Committee Liaisons

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

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

Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower the church.

Interested in joining United Presbyterian Church?
Contact a pastor or visit our website at: www.unitedpc.org.

Faith After Resurrection

We have recently started a new sermon series, “Faith After Resurrection.” It’s our Easter series, a way of helping us all remember that Easter is not just a day — Easter is a whole new way of living. Long ago, the apostle Paul wrote, “If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain.” He wrote this to the church at Corinth.

At first, it doesn’t sound much like Easter, does it? If Christ has not been raised ... It’s set up to be a conditional statement. If this is true, then that is true. It’s a way of arguing based on logic: If this, then that. But Paul twists it a little. He mimics the scholarly rhetorical style of his day. As a way of driving a point home, he suggests the exact opposite of what he means.

“If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain.” It’s like a parent saying to a child, “If the sun does not come up tomorrow, then you do not have to go to school, and you do not have to do your chores.” For a second, it sounds like there’s wiggle room in the discussion — until you realize that the sun always comes up; or until you realize that the Son has indeed been raised up.

It’s just a few lines later in Paul’s argument that he makes that clear. “But in fact,” he writes, “Christ has been raised from the dead.” If this, then that. Since Christ has been raised, our proclamation is not in vain, and your faith is not in vain. In other words, your faith is real because resurrection is real. He takes a while to get there, but that’s what he’s saying.

Faith wasn’t easy for the Disciples even with Jesus physically with them. Jesus often chided them for their lack of faith. So, how we can have a faith that can move mountains without Jesus physically with us? What does faith look like after the resurrection?

Faith after resurrection is living like Jesus is alive. It’s loving as he loved, it’s making disciples, it’s teaching his commandments, it’s allowing yourself to be forgiven and then forgiving others. It’s being Christ’s hands, and feet, and heart in this world. It’s following a risen savior who still bears the scars of crucifixion.

Over the next several weeks, we’ll look at those moments in Scripture that reassure us that faith is not futile and that faith is possible and powerful after resurrection. We’ll look at those post-resurrection moments when Jesus shows up again, to help us understand what faith after resurrection looks like.

In common calling,
Pastor Stephen

Member Care

Easter Gifts

At UPC we live out being a welcoming body of believers. The open arms and greetings to those familiar faces as well as those joining us for the first time are evident on Sunday mornings. But what do we do when members of our body are no longer able to join us on Sunday mornings? How do we extend our open arms and greetings when members are unable to come to us? This Easter the visiting deacons delivered a special gift to those members. During April's VIVID service we illuminated the scripture through a cross painting project. Children and adults painted canvases covered with tape. Once dry the tape was removed and revealed a cross freshly white much like we experience on Easter. This artwork was then shared as a special Easter greeting by the visiting deacons. Much love and meaning went into both creating these crosses and shared during their delivery.



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, and Marilyn Umdenstock.

Health & Wellness

What Did You Say?

May is "Better Hearing Month". If you think you or someone you know might have a hearing loss, you are not alone. If you've suspected for a while but just haven't got around to doing anything about it, that's not unusual. On average, it takes people seven years from the time they suspect a hearing loss to the time they seek treatment.

If you answer YES to some of the following questions, you may have a hearing loss.

- Often ask people to repeat what they say?
- Have trouble hearing in groups?
- Think others mumble
- Fail to hear someone talking behind you?
- Turn up the volume on the TV or car radio?
- Have difficulty on the phone?
- Have trouble hearing your alarm clock?

What's my next step? You could see an Otolaryngologist (Ear, Nose and Throat doctor) or your primary care doctor to rule out any other medical condition. You may want to go to an Audiologist directly to get a hearing test. If you do have a hearing loss, don't despair. There are great medical advances to help those with hearing loss.

Kirsten Tharp RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

Blood Drive Information

The spring Red Cross blood drive will be held on Monday, May 1. Appointments are available from 2:00 pm - 5:45 pm and may be made online or by contacting the church office. Walk-ins will be accepted the day of the drive on a first come basis. Donors must be 17 years of age and not have donated blood for the past 56 days.

Worship & Arts

Why Do We Do That?

Public Reading of Scripture

Last month I started an article series called “Why Do We Do That?” where I discuss certain elements of worship and briefly unpack why we have that element in our worship services at UPC. For this article, I want to talk a little bit about the public reading of Scripture, particularly by non-clerical persons.

Scripture is read in most Christian churches, but how it is read differs from denomination to denomination. Sometimes a pastor will read it in his/her sermon, sometimes clergy read or chant Scripture as a stand-alone part of the service, and sometimes it is read by parishioners. As you might have noticed at UPC, we are transitioning from having it read by the pastor to having it read before the sermon by people from the congregation.

The public reading of Scripture can be traced to the ancient Jewish tradition when adult male Jews were invited to read Scripture in the synagogue and were also invited to give a commentary on it. In the Nazareth synagogue, as recorded in Luke 4:16-22, Jesus read the prophesy of Isaiah and announcement that he was the Spirit-led servant described in Isaiah. The public reading of Scripture is also one of the oldest Christian traditions of the church. The entire community was responsible for the proclamation of the Word, especially in revealing the true nature of Christ as a form of evangelism. In this way, the reading of Scripture and evangelism go hand in hand because the reading was not simply a recording of truths about God and God’s people, it was a way for the Messiahship of Christ to be proclaimed.

In the Presbyterian tradition, there is a trajectory, or a form of directionality within the service, and often it peaks at the proclamation of the Word. There is something profound that happens when the reading of the Word is done by members within the community; not just pastors or staff members. It is a clearer reminder that the Word of God is truly for the people of God, and the Word itself is realized and enlivened within a particular community. So when you see and hear people of the community presenting the Word of God in the service, they are delivering the Sacred content to the whole gathered community while being wholly with and representative of the church of UPC. The Scripture Reading team is also representative of the congregation in terms of demographic. We have both young and old and male and female proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ each and every week.

This reading of Scripture truly is the Word of God for the people of God.

Aaron Schultz

Special Sunday Service on June 4th

On Sunday, June 4th, Pentecost and Confirmation will be celebrated together. This special service will have a lot of music, will be lead by the youth who are seeking to be confirmed, and celebrate Communion. Karen Miller will be preaching.

Worship and Arts Committee

If you have any interest in worship, music, visual arts, or collaboration, please consider joining the Worship and Arts Committee. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:00 pm. Contact Aaron Schultz (aschultz@unitedpc.org) if you have any questions.

Sermon Series:

Faith After Resurrection

The weeks between Easter and Pentecost are called Eastertide. This year, during these six weeks, we are going to examine what faith looks like after resurrection. What should followers of Jesus do now that Jesus is resurrected? How should we act? What should we believe? How do we follow Jesus when he is not physically here with us? Join us as we journey with the disciples after Jesus’ resurrection together.

Sermon Schedule

May 7: John 21:15–17 Rev. Anna Saxon

May 14: John 20:24–31

“More Than Words” Pastor Stephen

May 21: Mark 1:14–15; 16:1–8

“What’s Ahead in Galilee” Pastor Stephen

May 28: 1 Corinthians 15:12–25

“Faith That is Not Futile” Pastor Stephen

Worship & Arts Cont'd

VIVID Worship on May 7th

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

Join us for VIVID on May 7 at 4:00 pm. We will hear about the job Jesus gives to his followers after his resurrection through story, song, art, and prayer. At 5:00 pm, we will have a meal together. This month's meal is pasta, salad, and other kid-friendly goodies.



Children and Youth

Children's 9:00 am Hour

Children meet in the Maker Space for brain games, reading, creating and more. Our last one until fall is May 28.

Children's Sunday School

2nd-4th Grade Fellowship Group

Sunday, May 28

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Join us for snacks, games, message and more! We will finally decide on a name for our group and make plans to decorate our own space upstairs.

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 an 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

The class will join the Tuesday, May 16, Session meeting to become members of the church.



Evenings July 16-20, 2017

Mark your calendars.

Mission

Food on the Fourth and Snack Packs

Don't forget to bring your food for the children to collect on May 28th so we can support our local food pantry. We will also fill snack packs after worship in the Sewing Room. Donations of 100% juice boxes, fruit snacks, peanut butter crackers, fruit cups, and granola bars are needed to help make sure our snack packs get filled.

Habitat For Humanity Build

There will be an Interfaith Habitat House built in Peoria this summer. Christians, Muslims, and Jews will work side by side to build a house in Peoria and it would be great if UPC can be represented. Youth or adults are welcome to help. The dates for the build are to be determined. If you are interested in participating, please talk to Pastor Stephen or Jenna Hague.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Projeto Amar

Thank you for all your donations to this year's One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. We were able to raise \$3815 to help Projeto Amar serve at-risk children in Brazil. Thank you for reaching out with God's love to those who need it.

The Good Neighbor Team

The Good Neighbor Team was thrilled to welcome a refugee family (mom, dad, and 15 month old son!) from the Congo last week. A group from our church met the family in Moline at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19 and greeted them with signs, flags, and small gifts for each member of the family.

The GNT had 10 days to prepare for the family's arrival and worked quickly to secure an apartment, furnish it completely, and stock the pantry, freezer and refrigerator with items. We were able to do this because of your generosity throughout the last year as we collected items for the apartment and because of the GNT members who worked around the clock that last week to ensure a smooth arrival for this family. Thank you!

We were especially pleased to have made a contact with the local African church and its pastor who was able to recommend the apartment complex, as it also houses several of his parishioners, including a few who speak Swahili! What a wonderful resource and community for the family to have right there at their fingertips.

Now that the family has arrived, they have many medical appointments as well as various governmental agency hoops to jump through. Our GNT members will help transport the family to appointments and assist them in getting paperwork filled out. The family will also start ESL classes and job hunting almost immediately.

Please keep this family in your prayers--these first few months will be extremely difficult for them as they adjust to a new country where they do not speak the language and have no familiar family/friends/support network. The GNT will experience many challenges but nothing compared to what the family will be facing daily. We are so happy to be able to be a part of easing their transition and showing them that we are happy they are here in the U.S.!

News and Notes

Baptism

We will celebrate the Baptism of Scott Grubbs on Sunday, May 21st. Linda and Mike Kelley will be Scott's baptism sponsors. Scott is one of our newest members at UPC. Please worship with us to support and celebrate with Scott on the 21st.

Christian Education

Sunday Education Hour at 9:00 am

Strange Book of Books Class (Library Room 106)

We are finishing our series on the Bible as a "Strange Book of Books." We will look at the concept of the Biblical Canon, interpreting the Bible, and more.

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)

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

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study

This month we are going to study and learn about some of your big questions about the Bible, theology, and God. Don't miss this chance to have some of your biggest and most pressing questions answered.

Eleven Minute Lessons

Eleven Minute Lessons continues Sunday at 11:11 am in room 107 with an in-depth study of Genesis. We are studying the story of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob this month.



Youth Groups

QUEST Youth Groups

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

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

R.U.S.H.

Middle/Early High School Youth

Sunday, May 14 & 28

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Note that the 14th is Mother's day, but we will still be meeting.

QUEST

Older High School Youth

Sunday, May 14 & 28

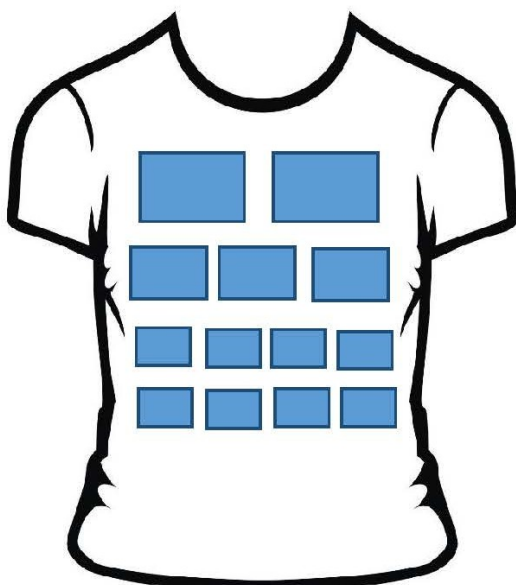
5:00 – 6:30 pm

Note that the 14th is Mother's day, but we will still be meeting.

Youth

United Presbyterian Youth Mission Trip T-Shirt Sponsor Form 2017

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

**Sponsor Levels & Prices:**

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

Name or Company Name:

Contact Name, Email & Phone:

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

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

Please make checks out to: United Presbyterian Church

Church Life

Eating Together

Men's Breakfast: May 11th at 9:00 am
at Le Peep.

Local Lunch: We will eat at Jalpenos's in the
Metro Centre on Monday, May 15th at 12:00 pm.

Thursday Lunch Bunch: We will eat at Childer's
in Junction City after Bible Study on May 25th.

Ladies Night Out: May 18th at 6:00 pm. Come
earlier to visit at Jubilee Café on May 18th .
RSVP Eunice 688-8458 or Betty 822-8500.

Games

Hand and Foot*: May 5th at 6:30 pm.

BUNCO*: May 12th at 7:00 pm.

*Last one until September

Bus Trip! We Have Planned Another Trip.

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

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

Saturday, May 6th

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

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

News and Notes

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who called, visited, sent cards, and flowers during my stay in the hospital. My hip is healing and I am getting around better than before. God Bless.

Trudy Sholtz

Dear Friends in Our Church,

Thank you for the beautiful rose that was sent during my recent hospital stay. It was nice to be remembered.

Blessings to all,

Dick Kemmerer

Dear friends at UPC,

Dear friends at UPC,

I am delighted to share with you that I have received an offer of call to serve First Presbyterian Church of Gordon NE. It is small congregation in a small rural community just a couple hours from 2 of my kids and their families (grandkids). John and I are delighted. Thank you for your prayers. God has made haste to help us. If all goes as planned, (I have yet to preach to the call) my start date is June 1st.

Our house is now also under contract. Praise the Lord.

Please pray for us, that all these last details fall into place, and we stay strong.

I continue my prayers for you and that you will each serve in ways that you can. Continue to be that strong evidence of the love and grace of God at work in Peoria.

With great fondness, and with thanksgiving for the time in which we shared in ministry,

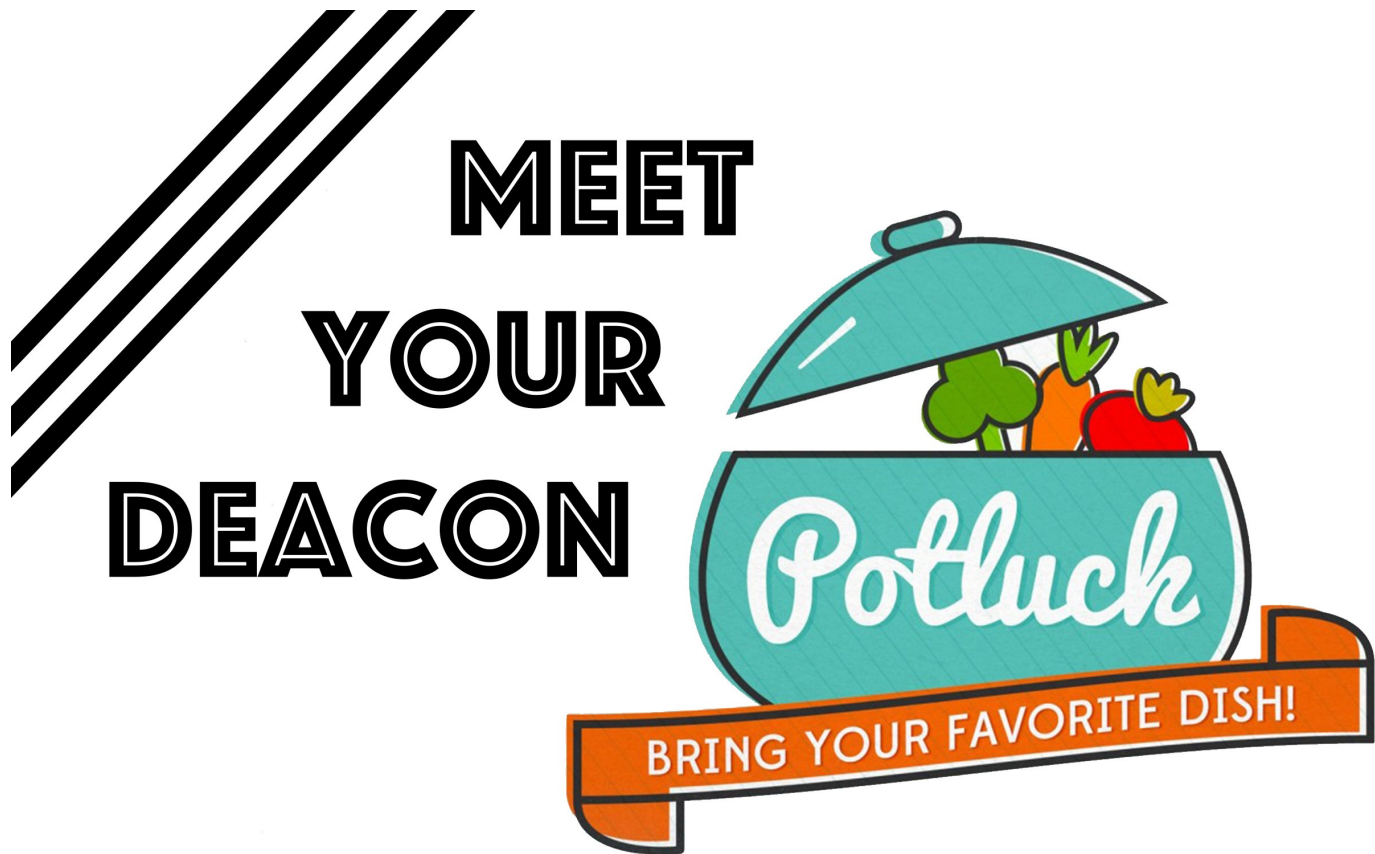
Pastor Patricia and John

Library News

Happy Spring! We have just received several Christian Fiction books as follows:

- *Like Always* by Robert Emer. You may have two of his other books we have in the library. I really enjoyed reading both *The Recital* and *The Duet*. Do read all three, if you are so inclined.
- *Summer of Light* by W. Dale Cramer. Reviewers describe this book as poignant, witty, entertaining, and delightfully down-to-earth.
- *Undying Love* by Al and JoAnna Lacy.

Thanks for your donations.



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

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

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