

Reaching U.P.

The monthly newsletter for United Presbyterian Church

Congressional Meeting

Immediately following worship service on June 2, 2013

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UPC's Little Red Wagon

Thank you all for donating to the Deacons little red wagon. Hopefully you know that it sits beneath the coat racks in the lobby outside of UPC's Fellowship Hall. Each month, Andy Hill, one of our deacons, takes the items to United Ministries. You might find a few facts about MCUM interesting:

- Founded in 1939 as the Christian Center, it was renamed in the 1960s to Monroe County United Ministries to better reflect its relationship with the faith community.
- MCUM is a nurturing organization serving working families and those in distress by assisting with emergency needs and subsidized childcare. MCUM provide quality education and a safe place for children, basic needs assistance for the poor and community service opportunities.
- For years, the Emergency Food Pantry distributed a five-day supply of food (3 meals a day for each person in the household for 5 days) to households seeking assistance. A few years ago, the demand for food assistance had grown so significantly that the pantry had to reduce the amount of food given to each family or face running out of food. Today, the pantry distributes a three-day supply of food to those in need.
- In 2012, the Emergency Services Program distributed enough food to make 37,557 meals and provided 10,225 items from our closet of cleaning supplies and hygiene items.
- The MCUM website states: We couldn't do this work without donations from individuals, congregations, workplaces, and organizations.



So next Sunday bring a can or two to help keep our UPC wagon full!



What can be Donated: All non-perishable food, cleaning closet items: hygiene items, cleaning supplies, paper goods, diapers, new socks, and new underwear. As you see in the picture, paper bags are also accepted.

Letter from the Pastor



For though I am
absent from you
in body, I am
present with you
in spirit. –
Colossians 2:5

My father taught me a wonderful lesson many moons ago. He said “David, don’t cut the tail off the dog one inch at a time.” Over the years I have seen, repeatedly, retiring and retired pastors of particular churches unable and unwilling to give up control/advice to their former congregations. This is a sad commentary on ministers who, let’s be honest, can’t let go. These ministers somehow still need the ego massaging and adoration of “being the best preacher I’ve ever heard” or the “only one capable of doing my funeral” or “marrying our children.” These are fatuous ideations from insecure ministers. They forget they were (as I am) only small cogs in the grand march of salvation, nothing special at all. Consequently, I cannot, will not baptize, marry, bury, or counsel anyone associated with UPC after July 31, 2013.

So please, when I bump into you post July 31, don’t speak to me of UPC matters. And, if I slip up and say “How’s church going”, kindly respond “none of your pea-pickin’ business.”

On a related note, soon to retire ministers have an annoying habit or need to prepare their church for the future. This is none of their pea-pickin’ business either, and soon, none of mine.

What is my business is to do nothing church related for a long time. Do some oil painting, finally, and work on the land. Tend to Brenda and her never ending honey-do lists, happily. Care for our mothers. And remember you with gratitude. That should be enough, don’t you think?

Blessings...David Bremer

Birthdays and Anniversaries



| | | | | | |
|--------|--|---------|--|---------|-------------------------------------|
| June 3 | Julie Hammel | June 6 | Jane Priest | June 22 | Robert and Julie Hammel Anniversary |
| June 4 | Souheil & Alejandra Haddad Anniversary | June 6 | Charles and Gladys Bartholomew Anniversary | June 23 | Sami Haddad |
| June 4 | David Bremer and Brenda Wood Anniversary | June 7 | Aida Haddad | June 24 | Aldan Johnson |
| June 5 | Fadi and Aline Haddad Anniversary | June 9 | Ed & Delores Toby | June 27 | Thomas Tadao Like |
| June 6 | Pilsoo Kang & KyungAe Lim Anniversary | June 12 | Rachel Bauer | June 27 | Andy Hill |
| | | June 12 | Allen Pease | June 29 | Raja Hanania |
| | | June 21 | Bill and Stephanie Worden Anniversary | | |

If you would like to make additions to the birthday and anniversary calendar please email: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Monthly Newsletter of United Presbyterian Church, 1701 E. Second Street—Bloomington, IN 47401. Editors: Membership Committee: Lou Malcomb, Jeremiah and Elaine Hubbard. Andy Hill is Webmaster. Submissions are accepted.

Letter from Clerk of Session

May 21, 2013

Dear Members and Friends of United Presbyterian Church,

By now you've received the news that David plans to retire as our pastor, effective July 31st of this year. I wanted to write to you, on behalf of the Session, to assure you that there is no cause for concern regarding the future of our church. Fortunately, our denomination has tried and true processes in place for filling pastoral vacancies and many resources available to assist churches in covering the various ministerial duties in the interim.

Shortly after David leaves, we will form a search committee. While they're starting the important work of searching out a new pastor, the various Session Committees will be arranging for guest preachers to fill the pulpit as well as covering the various other duties of the pastor. The next step would be the installation of an interim pastor, which will lighten that burden. We won't be alone in that process. The Presbytery and their Committee on Ministry will be there to advise and guide us all the way. Even more important, Christ will be walking with us every step of this interesting journey.

We have enjoyed David's leadership, as well as his teaching, preaching, and pastoral care for 21 years. That is a long tenure for a minister in this day and age. Obviously, the last search committee got it right. However, one doesn't have to go back very far in our church's history to find a time when that wasn't the case. For that reason, I can't over-emphasize the importance of not rushing the process. Finding the right person to be our next pastor will not happen in days or weeks, but over a period of several months.

There is one thing we can all start doing right now: We can all start praying for our church and for all of those participating in the process of finding our next pastor as well as those involved in keeping the wheels turning in the meantime.

Don Root



Sanctuary Flowers

Your support is needed to help enhance the beauty of our sanctuary with fresh flowers each week. Sanctuary flowers can be donated in honor or in memory of someone special, a birthday, an anniversary, a special event, or just to the Glory of God. This is a beautiful way to acknowledge those who mean so much to us and to let others enjoy the beauty. To place sanctuary flowers for a special occasion or to honor a loved one, see the sign-up sheet posted opposite the church office. If you would like the church to arrange for the ordering and delivery of the flowers, the cost is \$23. For further information please see Souheil Haddad or Allen Pease.

Our Daily Bread

The Deacon's Group supplies printed copies of *Our Daily Bread* each month for your personal devotions. The mini booklet is available in both large and small print and is located on the table outside the sanctuary, or for the digitally addicted, there are several different formats below. You can find out more about RBC Ministries (the publisher of ODB) and the Daily Bread website at <http://rbc.org/>.



To the Graduates

His Eyes

Last month Reaching U.P. highlighted “His Eyes.” For continued updates on what is happening with the this ministry, please visit their blog at www.hiseyeshonduras.blogspot.com. A few highlights include work on the second floor of the clinic, a new roof, a new ministry area, fencing projects, walls on churches, and road improvements. Right now the properties currently have 10-15 acres for coffee. You can purchase the coffee beans at www.hillclimbercoffee.com. Soon the Colby’s family will be heading for the USA. Their plan is to work at Camp Allendale raising money for construction and new equipment for the clinic patients. Prayers are appreciated.

The 2012 – 2013 school year has already come to a close for our college graduates, and June is the time for High School graduation. We would like to take the time to congratulate and thank you for your dedication to God and your studies. Around the corner is a new journey and path. Remember God has stood beside you, the church family has prayed for you and your transitions as you move forward in life. We pray that you continue to feel God’s presence and have strength to walk these new paths. We do not know what the future brings, but we do believe in you. Congratulations High School Graduates: Tareq Hanania (Indiana University,) Yasmina Haddad (Vanderbuilt,) and Jesse McBride (Indiana University.) Congratulations to our

Communicants to Join

On June 9th, Alexander Like, Noah Like, and Gerrit Jan Heitink will be joining UPC as their study of church membership, the sacraments, and what it means to be a communing member of UPC has been completed.

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’
“He will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” -Matthew 25:44-45

Correspondence of Gratitude

Meredith Family: Thank you so much for letting me use your parking lot for my party on May 4th. Since it was raining, the party had to be entirely inside and was smaller than expected but a few people did use the lot. Once again, thank you! It was very kind.

Fritch Family: A sincere thank you to everyone for coming and sharing your love and for the flowers.

A Brief “Special Offerings” Primer

At specific times throughout each year, Presbyterians participate in four very special offerings. We’ve been doing it for many years now....so many, in fact, that we may lose sight of the vital role these offerings play in so many thousands of disadvantage and crippled lives all around the world.

For a few weeks prior to each special offering, you will find descriptive sheets in your Sunday bulletin, as such the May 19th Pentecost Offerings.) Next time you see one of these in your bulletin, please take a moment to read and learn specifically what good work that particular special offering supports.

Every gift you give makes a difference in someone’s life and well being. While you won’t get a personal “thank you,” you can be assured that your gift and many others along with it will be remembered in prayers of thanks.

Pentecost Offering (May 19, 2013)

This offering is an investment by Presbyterians in the faith and future of our at risk children and young adults. These gifts make it possible for the church to encourage, develop, and support its young people and address the needs of kids at risk.

And, good news for the home front, 40% of this special offering can be used for UPC’s own youth-oriented activities, i.e., sports programs, summer day camps, youth event registration fees.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings (OGHS) (Easter Sunday)

OGHS has been going on since 1949. It funds the following programs; 1) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, i.e., victims of natural disasters such as Hurricane Sandy and man-made disasters such as the Newton, CT school shootings; 2) the Presbyterian Hunger Program that provides food and clean water to the hungry throughout the world; 3) Self-Development of People, i.e., providing training and assistance to empower the poor and oppressed and help them regain self-sufficiency and dignity.

Christmas Joy Offerings (Advent Season)

This offering provides financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families through the Presbyterian Board of Pensions. It also provides opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

Peacemaking Offering (World Communion Sunday) Oct 6, 2013

The Peace of Christ across the entire Presbyterian Church is the crux of this special offering. A current cause has been to raise public awareness about a variety of human rights issues such as a massive outrage of child trafficking emanating from a number of Southeast Asian countries.

Your gifts to each of these four special offerings, no matter how great or how small, are needed and deeply appreciated by those who have so much less than each of us. There truly is Joy In Giving – John Swanson, Missions

Youth Bowling

Does your family like to Bowl? Youth Bowling at The Back Alley IU Memorial Union has a deal for you. This program goes through the summer and allows kids under 15 to bowl 2 games a day for free all summer at participating alleys. UPCs will be meeting at The Back Alley June 9 at 1pm to take part in this deal. Contact Karen for further info at klike@earthlink.net.

Changes to Reaching U.P.

In the past few months there have been format changes with this publication. You will now be seeing changes in the delivery. Reaching U.P. has been available on our website and hard copies handed out at church or through the mail. Starting next month you will be getting the publication emailed to you, hard copies will continue to be available at your request, and in the bulletin the last Sunday of the month. If you would like your email updated on our list, please contact the office at upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Financial Report

We had a good month in April. We took in a total of \$15,789.00 for the month and our expenses were \$11,269.09, giving us a positive cash flow of \$4,519.09 for April and a total positive cash flow of \$15,711.21 for the year to date.

| INCOME | | | | | EXPENSES | GAIN/LOSS |
|---------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | OFFERING | MISSION | FUND R. | TOTAL | | |
| APR. | 15,545.00 | 10.00 | 234.00 | 15,789.00 | 11,269.09 | 4,519.91 |
| TO DATE | 59,640.11 | 1,308.04 | 3,008.98 | 63,957.13 | 48,245.93 | 15,711.21 |

One third of the year has passed and we are in a good position financially. I would urge everyone to continue to keep their pledges up to date as we come into the summer vacation months when attendance drops off and offerings can be lean.

We have been asking those members who are able, to pay their per capita assessment. So far this year, the response has been good. The amount is the same as last year: \$29.33 per member. As you know, this money goes to finance the PCUSA's governing bodies, the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Last Sunday we distributed packets explaining how the General Assembly portion is used. If you didn't get one, please pick one up in the Narthex.

Don Root, Stewardship Chairman



Announcements!!

Per Capita

It's that time of year again when we ask members who are able to pay their per capita assessment to the Presbytery of Ohio Valley. The amount is the same as last year \$29.33

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Served by the Moderator and the Elders the first Sunday of each month & certain other special occasions.

Holy Communion will be served on June 2nd by: Karen Like, Souheil Haddad, Don Root, and John Swanson

Sunday School Teaching Schedule

During the summer month, the Sunday School classroom will only be available for Pre K to 2nd grade. The following is June's teaching schedule: June 2nd – Aline Haddad, June 9th – Stephanie Worden, June 16th – Angie Notebaert, June 23rd – Melanie Mathis-McBride, June 30th – Karen Like

Additions to Reaching U.P.

Do you have something the congregation should know about? Is there something you would like to share? Please email any submission for Reaching U.P. to upcbloomington@gmail.com, before the 15th of each month.

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

For Children

Youth Sunday School (Pre-school through fifth grade)
Following dismissal from worship

For Teens

Communicants Class for Middle School Students ● 9am Sunday in Room H

College Students and Young Adults

UKirk – Various activities ● check out www.iukirk.com

Adults and College Students

The Old Testament Bible Study ● 9am on Sundays in Anderson Parlor
Bible Study with Reverend Bremer and Reverend Lorimer ● 12:15pm on Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall

Book study with Reverend Bremer ● 6pm on Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall



How to Get Involved

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a time to share with one another over coffee and snacks. Everyone is invited to attend, and it is held immediately following the worship service. Fellowship hours can be hosted by groups, families, or individuals. If you feel led to serve in this way, a signup sheet is in the fellowship hall. June's fellowship hour will be hosted by the following: June 2nd – Deacons, June 9th – Tuesday Evening Bible Study, June 16th - Bob and Julie Hammel—Donuts for Dads. Both June 23rd and June 30th are available for sponsorship. Please sign up today!

Utilize Scrip:

When Scrip cards are purchased UPC receives a percentage from the merchant. The Scrip table will only be set up on the last Sunday of the month to accept order forms and payments. The purchased cards will be available to be picked up the following Sunday!

Volunteering with Sunday School:

Do you love children? Are you excited about crafts? The Sunday School teachers would love to have you assist them. Please contact Karen Like at more information!

Bible Studies:

The church offers three gatherings to explore your faith and knowledge outside of the worship service. These happen on Sunday morning, Tuesday afternoon, and Tuesday evening. Please know these are not bible class, where one teaches, and the rest listens and meditates. Each is an interactive time to learn and share.

Guest performers:

Throughout the year we have many special guest performances to enhance our worship experience. If you have a musical talent and are interested in sharing it with the congregation, please contact Jeeyoon Kim!



Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. – Romans 13:7



United Presbyterian Church

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| ~ June 2013 ~ | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| Notes: Sunday evenings: 5:30 Gamblers Anonymous, 6pm Overeaters Anonymous, 8pm AA Campus Group | | | | | | 1 11am Overeat- ers Anonymous |
| 2 9am Bible Study 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 12:15pm Con- gressional Meet- ing | 3 | 4 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study | 5 8pm Overeaters Anonymous | 6 8pm AA Campus Group | 7 11:45 Men's Lunch 7pm Temple Shir Tikvah | 8 11am Overeat- ers Anonymous |
| 9 9am Bible Study 10am Worship/ Receiving of New Members 11am Fellowship | 10 5:15 Kiwanis | 11 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study | 12 8pm Overeaters Anonymous | 13 8pm AA Campus Group | 14 11:45 Men's Lunch 7pm Temple Shir Tikvah | 15 11am Overeat- ers Anonymous |
| 16 9am Bible Study 10am Worship 11am Fellowship | 17 | 18 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study 7pm Session | 19 8pm Overeaters Anonymous | 20 8pm AA Campus Group | 21 11:45 Men's Lunch 7pm Temple Shir Tikvah | 22 11am Overeat- ers Anonymous |
| 23/30 9am Bible Study 10am Worship 11am Fellowship | 24 | 25 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study 7pm Session | 26 8pm Overeaters Anonymous | 27 8pm AA Campus Group | 28 11:45 Men's Lunch 7pm Temple Shir Tikvah | 29 11am Overeat- ers Anonymous |