

# Reaching UP

United  
Presbyterian  
Church

## UPC Welcomes Reverend Mitch Coggin

United Presbyterian Church (UPC) begins the New Year under the pastoral leadership of the Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin. With oversight and guidance from our Lord, Mitch was selected by the UPC session, with subsequent approval of the Presbytery’s Council on Ministry, to become our interim minister.

During October and November of 2013, the session interviewed five well-qualified candidates for the position of interim pastor. The session extends its sincere thanks to Rev. Susan McGhee, Executive Presbyter, for her dedicated efforts in screening and selecting the candidates. Many thanks, as well, to Rev. John VanderZee who provided valuable assistance to the session as we walked down an unfamiliar path.

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### Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.



Those of us who have had an opportunity to meet Mitch are delighted that he is now an integral part of our church family. He is a most personable, well experienced pastor who has just concluded a 2 ½ year interim ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Connersville, IN. Prior to that, from 2001 through early 2011, he was the installed pastor of two churches simultaneously, one in Scipio, IN and the other in Grammer, IN.

As members of UPC will soon discover, Mitch is not only an emissary of the Lord, he is also a change-agent. “Interim ministry is calling for me,” says Mitch. “My training and motivation is to assist the church in celebrating and grieving the past, assessing its current strengths and weaknesses and then moving forward to new ground.”

In addition to his past ministries, Mitch has had 15 years experience as a hospital chaplain, seven of those years at Columbus Regional Hospital in Columbus, IN. He is also a trained facilitator, coach and teacher. One of his key missions as our interim pastor will be to lead the church through a forward-moving transition that will provide the foundation of UPC’s long-term future. “That,” says Mitch, “will mean taking a hard look at existing programs, committees and structures—probably burying some outdated ones—and then envisioning new missions and ministries that move UPC toward its desired future.”

In addition to UPC’s longer range transition, Rev. Mitch will assume the many other responsibilities of church leadership. Among them:

**Pastoral Care:** “My 25 years experience as a hospital chaplain, my interactions with

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members of several congregations, my teaching of Pastoral Care With Terminally Ill – all have prepared me well to understand and relate to members during those times of critical need.”

**Preaching:** “I like originality in my sermons. They are, for the most part, what I would call a biblically-based life sermon...that is, using the scripture as the foundation to relate a message of here-and-now relevance in our daily lives.”

**Membership Involvement:** “I have had great success with the Task Force approach and am very interested in looking for individual levels of commitment from our members – asking people to do specific tasks within relatively short time frames—more on their schedules rather than the churches.”

**Coaching:** “As effective coaching can work so well for individuals, so can it work very well for an entire church organization. The basic idea is to make the congregations’ collective church life better by moving ahead, not dwelling on the past.”

**Re-energizing:** “Together, we have an opportunity to create positive change at UPC...to look at what works and what doesn’t...and then create healthy change.”

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Mitch Coggin was born in Alexander City, Alabama where his mother still resides. He has a brother that lives in Orlando and two sisters who live in Auburn, Alabama. (Do not ask Mitch what he thought of the recent Alabama-Auburn football game; he’s a “Roll Tide” guy).

After earning his BA at Samford University in Birmingham, he continued his education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. It was there that he met his future wife, Linda, who was pursuing her degree in education at the University of Kentucky.

Mitch and Linda have two children: Wade, who is a private pilot in Boston and Margaret, who is a Presbyterian minister currently, serving as a chaplain at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, OH.



Many members know Linda Coggin since she is an active member of UPC. Following a long career as a classroom teacher, Linda is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in a highly specialized field of education.

On a lighter side of his life, Mitch loves to do woodworking and has recently acquired a mini-lathe. He is also an avid gardener and particularly enjoys growing specialty gourds that can be dried, woodburned or stained and made into decorations, trinket baskets or Christmas ornaments. He is also a golfer, “I make it to the golf course at least 3 or 4 times a year so that tells you how good I am!”

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With Mitch’s appointment as UPC’s interim minister, the Coggins will be united in Bloomington. As Mitch puts it, “We are both life-long learners who desire to follow the leadership of God for our lives and our family. Having been divided in focus over the past 2.5 years as she has advanced her doctoral process and I have served an interim congregation 2.5 hours away, we believe that service to UPC will allow us to unify our family and answer God’s call here, in this place, at this time. Together with God’s wisdom and direction, we can find God’s path together and watch as an unfamiliar path becomes familiar and preferred.”

And so, with Rev. Coggin’s leadership, may all members of UPC find God’s path to our future.

## How to Get Involved

### Guest performers:

Throughout the year we have many special guest performances to enhance our worship experience. If you

### 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 for more information!

### Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a time to share with one another over coffee and snacks. Everyone is invited to attend. It is held immediately following the Sunday 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.

### 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!

### UKirk:

UKirk is in need of assistance with transportation, food donations, speakers, and mentors. If you are interested, please contact Elaine at NPlane01@aol.com.

### Bible Studies:

The church offers three gatherings to explore faith and knowledge outside of the worship service. Please know these are not always bible classes, each is an interactive time to learn and share.

### Flowers:

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. 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 Worship Committee to order, the cost is \$25 with delivery included.

### Little Red Wagon:

The little red wagon is waiting to be filled with canned goods and hygiene products for Monroe County United Ministries. For more information ask one of our Deacons..



### 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 January 5th by: Alejandra Haddad, Don Root, Gerrit Heitink, and Karen Like.



### Sunday School Teaching Schedule

Sunday School classroom are being staffed for both classes. The following is January's teaching schedule for Pre K—2nd grade: 5<sup>th</sup> – Angie Notebaert, 12<sup>th</sup> – Aline Haddad, 19<sup>th</sup> - Stephanie Worden, 26<sup>th</sup> – Melanie Mathis-McBride. January teaching schedule for 3rd– 6th grade: 5<sup>th</sup> – Michelle Heitink, 12<sup>th</sup> – Leina Joseph, 19<sup>th</sup> – Linda Coggin, 26<sup>th</sup> – 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.

## ~ January 2014 ~

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Evening Schedule: 5:30 pm – Gamblers Anonymous 6:00 pm – Overeaters Anonymous 8:00 pm – AA			<b>1</b> 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>2</b> 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	<b>3</b> 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	<b>4</b> 11am Overeaters Anonymous
<b>5</b> Deacon's Sunday 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship and Communion 11am Fellowship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	<b>8</b> 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>9</b> 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	<b>10</b> 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	<b>11</b> 11am Overeaters Anonymous
<b>12</b> 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	<b>13</b> 5:15 Kiwanis	<b>14</b> 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	<b>15</b> 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>16</b> 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	<b>17</b> 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	<b>18</b> 11am Overeaters Anonymous
<b>19</b> 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study 7pm Session	<b>22</b> 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>23</b> 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	<b>24</b> 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	<b>25</b> 11am Overeaters Anonymous
<b>26</b> 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	<b>29</b> 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>30</b> 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	<b>31</b> 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	

### January Birthdays and Anniversaries



2<sup>nd</sup> Tanya Stephens  
Grove  
3<sup>rd</sup> Liz Root  
5<sup>th</sup> John Swanson  
10<sup>th</sup> Doug Jones

10<sup>th</sup> Chelsey Parker  
11<sup>th</sup> Stephanie Haddad  
15<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Ferenczy  
23<sup>rd</sup> Karen Like  
25<sup>th</sup> Virginia McCartney

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

# UKirk

UKirk is endeavoring to provide a venue for First Presbyterian Church and United Presbyterian Church to reach out to IU students.

## How to Help with UKirk

**Mentors**—Students are always needing someone interested in hearing their story, to take them to lunch, or just do an activity with

**Treats**—UKirk would love to have homemade or store bought treats for their gatherings

**Paper Products**—Lunches at FPC could use napkins, paper plates, disposable silverware, and cups.

Please email Elaine Hubbard at [UPCBloomington@gmail.com](mailto:UPCBloomington@gmail.com), if you are interested in volunteering with UKirk in any capacity!

**UKIRK @ IU**  
Presbyterian Campus Ministry  
[www.ukirk.com](http://www.ukirk.com)

A photo from the UKirk Christmas party!



College  
Conference  
@Montreat

at the well  
January 2-5, 2014



[http://www.montreat.org/file\\_download/1553](http://www.montreat.org/file_download/1553)



## UKIRK @ IU Fall Highlights

:: Small groups meeting weekly to fellowship and encourage each other on Mondays and Fridays

:: Wednesday night gatherings at Wright Education building with 8-10 participants

:: Back to Youth Group Lockin and mission weekend where we stayed up all night and watched a movie, played games, and prepared breakfast to serve to the homeless community through First Presbyterian Church

:: We have UKIRK t shirts for sale. All sizes are \$15 each and go towards UKIRK programs.

:: The College Conference @ Montreat is January 2-5. We have 10 students signed up! Please consider donating breakfast food items like bagels, bread, coffee. We accept monetary donations as well. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church.

:: Ecumenical Project - In February we are working with numerous campus and other denominational groups to bring ELCA minister, NY Times best-selling author, and speaker Nadia Bolz-Weber to keynote an event geared towards millennials. We would love UPC to be part of the hospitality. More information forthcoming.

For any questions please contact at Mihee at 812-269-2317 or [miheekk@gmail.com](mailto:miheekk@gmail.com).

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## Sincerest Sympathy

We are sad to announce the death of Kristin Spickhlier, daughter of Bob and Betty Craig. A celebration of life service will be held during January in Indianapolis with a date to be announced. The closing months of 2013 have been a difficult time for the Craig's, with the death of their grandson J. Craig Douglas Snider in November and now the passing of his mother, their daughter, on December 22.

Please use the following address to send sympathy cards to Bob and Betty:

Bob & Betty Craig  
1701 East Caradon Hill  
Bloomington, IN 47401

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We regret to inform you of another passing. Janet McNary, mother of Rachel Loop, died on Wednesday, December 18 at the age of 100 in Oregon. Fortunately, Rachel was able to arrive in Oregon before her mother passed and was able to set with her through her last night. Following is a touching note from Rachel to her UPC family:

My mother had celebrated her 1000<sup>th</sup> birthday in October, and having no more goals in this life, decided it was time to leave. She was mobile until four days before her death, was in no pain and died in her own home.

As part of her hospice service, a lady from an organization called Sacred Flight came to play harp music for her and Mom died shortly afterward with me, my sisters, Hannah and Sarah and my marvelous brother-in-law John . . . with her until her last breath. We miss her but are so very glad she is now free of her body which had become worn out from a long, full life.

To send sympathy cards to Rachel, please use this address:

Rachel Loop  
3035 S. Rockport Road  
Bloomington, IN 47403



Father of love, hear my prayer.

Help me to know Your Will  
and to do it with courage and faith.

Accept my offering of myself,  
all my thoughts, words, deeds, and  
sufferings.

May my life be spent giving You glory.

Give me the strength to follow Your call,  
so that Your Truth may live in my heart  
and bring peace to me and to those I  
meet, for I believe in Your Love. Amen.

## How to Stay Connected with UPC

UPC is working throughout the community, but everyone is busy and it's easy for many of us to miss a Sunday or feel disconnected with so much going on. That's exactly why we have many social media and web based tools to keep you in the know. We can share pictures through Facebook and videos through Youtube. We even post Reaching UP on our website, so be sure to check it out. We look forward to seeing you online!

### UPC Online Connections

- Facebook
  - UPC Bloomington
- Facebook Fan Page
  - United Presbyterian Church Bloomington Indiana
- Website
  - [UPCBloomington.org](http://UPCBloomington.org)
- Youtube Channel
  - UPC Bloomington



### **Psalms 96:11-13**

*Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

## **Reaching UP**

Have you been missing your monthly copy of Reaching UP? Each month UPC sends out an electronic version, posts it on the website, and hands out hard copies at the church. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please let us know.

You can email us at [UPCBloomington@gmail.com](mailto:UPCBloomington@gmail.com) to request a monthly hard copy or to be put on the email list.

## **Financial Report**

November was an especially bad month financially. We took in a total of \$8,892.25 for the month and our expenses were \$15,724.56, giving us a negative cash flow of \$6,832.31 for November and a total negative cash flow of \$1,761.77 for the year to date.

INCOME					EXPENSES	GAIN/LOSS
	OFFERING	MISSION	FUND R.	TOTAL		
NOV.	6,689.50	0.00	2,202.75	8,892.25	15,724.56	-6,832.31
TO DATE	133,113.16	2,281.04	11,096.94	146,491.14	148,252.91	-1,761.77

November is typically a bad month, but seldom this bad. Let's hope that we have a good month in December so we can at least break even for the year.

Don Root, Stewardship Chairman

United Presbyterian Church

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[www.upcbloomington.org](http://www.upcbloomington.org)

## **Spiritual Growth Opportunities**

### **For Children**

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

### **College Students and Young Adults**

UKirk – Various activities check out [www.iukirk.com](http://www.iukirk.com)

### **Adults and College Students**

Video Series at 9 A.M. on Sundays in Anderson Parlor  
Bible Study with Reverend Lorimer, 12:15 P.M. on Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall  
Book study, participant led, 6 P.M. on Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall

