

Reaching UP

United
Presbyterian
Church

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. One is not to go hungry while another is drunk! (I Cor. 11:21). This is scandalous behavior opposed to the Way of Christ. Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peacemaking Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.

A Presbyterian Gift

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

John A. Dalles, a PCUSA pastor who has researched the history of World Communion Sunday notes this in his blog entry, reprinted from the October 7, 2002, issue of Presbyterian Outlook:

Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr’s younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in

which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. When I asked Donald Kerr how the idea of World Communion Sunday spread from that first service to the world wide practice of today, this is what he replied,

"The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn’t until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

If you would like to submit an article to be featured on the front page of Reaching UP, please don't hesitate. Send your submission to UP-CBloomington@gmail.com.

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Letter from the Pastor



This recent headline grabbed my attention:
Churchgoing Has No Effect On 50% Of Americans, According To Survey.

Almost half of churchgoing Americans say their life has not changed a bit due to their time in the pews, a new survey shows. Barna Group, an evangelical company based in California, found that 46 percent reported no change. About a quarter of Americans said their life was greatly affected by church attendance and another quarter said it was somewhat influential. Two-thirds of respondents said they had felt "a real and personal connection" with God while attending church. Among weekly church attendees, 44 % said they felt God's presence every week and 18 percent said they had that experience once a month. In a finding sure to disappoint pastors, three out of five church attendees said they could not recall an important new religious insight from their last church visit. Of those who attended in the previous week, 50 percent could not recall walking away with a significant

new understanding. David Kinnaman, president of Barna Group, said the research shows that many churchgoers see the benefits of connecting with God and others in congregations. "Yet, the research results are also a reminder that faith leaders cannot take these things for granted," he said. "Millions of active participants find their church experiences to be lacking."

If you want to attract a pastor's attention, that's certainly the way to do it!!! Think about it. What do you take away when you leave worship on Sunday? Assuming that you attend worship! If you do not attend, maybe there were too many Sunday's in which you left feeling similar to the attendees described above, and you finally said, "That's enough." But did you know that our faith is bolstered, solidified, strengthened and matured by your church attendance? It is virtually impossible to grow in your faith if church is not a viable part of your faith journey.

The article challenges us! It tells us that church must be stimulating, challenging, inspiring, and engaging. It reminds us that we must never take our worship for granted. It tells us we must ever be about looking for ways to provide people with stimulating new insights. The music must be inspiring. The sermons must be interesting, funny at times and not too long! The fellowship with others must be like a comfortable reunion. The building must be not too cold or not too hot. Did I cover it all! (smile/wink)

Actually church isn't to be like watching TV. Turn it on and tune out. Or like watching a sporting event. Sleep a while, shout at the ref (or the preacher) and hurry to the bathroom during intermission. Church is to be more like a conversation. During a conversation, I listen and I speak. I gesture and I nod. I smile and I move closer or further away. In a conversation, I participate or else the conversation doesn't happen. So it is with church. Too often we come to sit back, listen, receive the prayers, sermon and the music and leave. Where is the participation? Where is the personal investment in participating with God, and with my fellow churchgoers in helping myself and one another to have key religious insights to take home? How about looking along when scripture is read, singing even when you don't know the hymn, taking notes during the sermon (I know this is extreme!), sitting in a different place with people you never sit with, get enough sleep the night before, and any other number of ideas you might come up with yourself!!! The point is that it is up to all of us to leave church stronger, energized, challenged and hopeful. Why not come back to church if you have slipped a bit in your attendance? Why not adopt a new "participation" goal as you come? Why not come with a new question in your heart of "What can I contribute and give away today" rather than "I wonder what "they" will give/do for me this morning? Let me know how this works for you and, as always, if you have, indeed, *recalled an important new religious insight from your last church visit.* Peace and Blessings to each of you,
Pastor Mitch

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.

Youth News

Things are slowly picking up for the youth at UPC. We will be starting a new Sunday School program this Fall. All the elementary children will be combined into one class and they will be learning about Heroes of the Bible. A new teen class will focus on the daily devotional book, "You Don't Have to be Perfect to Follow Jesus", by Mike Yaconelli.

We are still looking for a teacher for each class with a commitment of one Sunday every couple months. It would be great to have a male role model for all our teen boys. We are working with the teens to create a relaxed meeting atmosphere. We acquired a loveseat from the Watt auction. Check it out. Please contact Karen at klike@earthlink.net if you have a contribution.

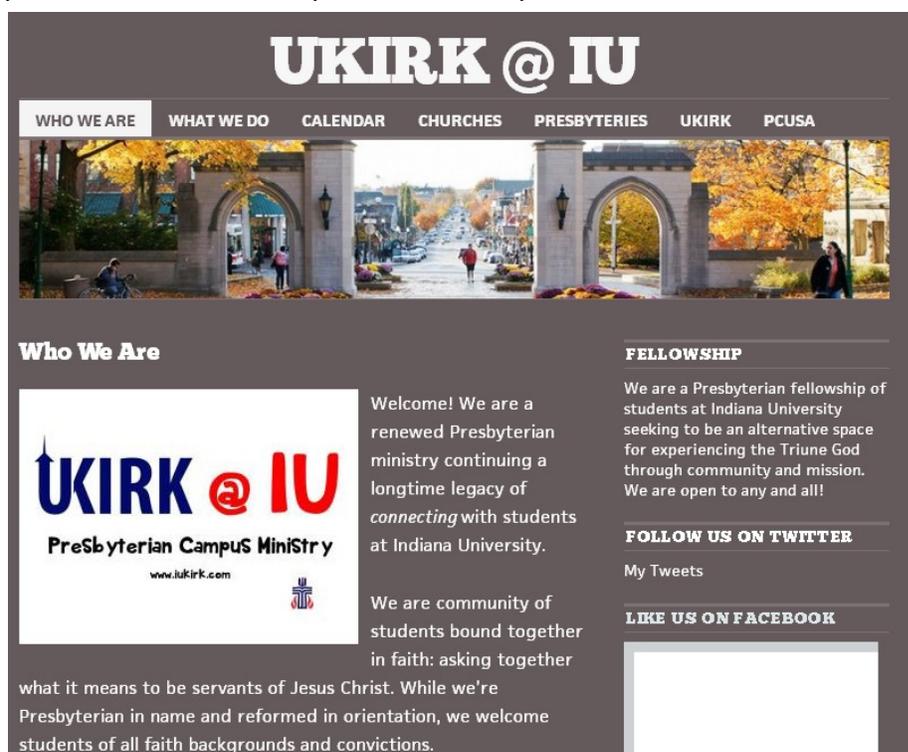
Our one day vacation bible school out on the farm will be October 19th following worship. The Mathis-McBrides have once again offered to have us out to the family farm to enjoy fishing, games, crafts, climbing, and the beautiful fall atmosphere of Brown County. If you would like to assist with food or a craft please contact Karen. This event is not limited to the youth but to anyone that would like a day of fresh country air.

If you are interested in participating in the next communicant's class please contact Karen or Mitch. We hope to have a class start up later this fall meeting a few Sunday afternoons a month until Spring.

UKirk

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

Please find out more information about this mission by going to <http://ukirk-indiana.com/>



October Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 KyungAe Lim
3 Angie Notebaert
5 Evelyn Foster
6 Bob Hammel
14 Peggy Watson

17 Gerrit Jan Heitink
19 Marianne Ackerson
19 Charles Bartholmew
25 Pilsoo Kang

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



How to Get Involved

Sunday Morning

Anytime

Volunteering with Sunday School

Do you love children? Are you excited about crafts and kids/teens? The Sunday School teachers would love to have you assist them. Please contact Karen Like KLike@earthlink.net 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.

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 bloomington@gmail.com

Video and Sound Systems

If you are interested in learning how to operate the sound system or help in taping the weekly worship sessions please contact Don Root at rootd@msn.com.

Offering

Would you like to help in counting the offertory?: You do not need to sign up for a yearly commitment. Or if you are interested in collecting the offertory please let ob Lorimer at lorimer9@gmail.com know.

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!

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.

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

Friendly Visitors

Do you like socializing at Fellowship Hour? Our congregation has many individuals that would love to have someone come visit them and share the good news with them. Some are homebound, and others are in nursing homes. Please contact the church at Upcbloomington@gmail.com. if you are interested in spreading cheer with a visit.



Schedule of Involvement

Sunday School Teaching Schedule

Teaching Schedule: Pre-K – 6th grade on October 12th will be Aline Hamati-Haddad. The teen class will be taught by Stephanie Worden. On October 19th, Pre-K - 6th grade will be Karen Like and teen class will be Linda Coggin. During the remaining Sundays, children and teens will stay in the Sunday Service.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Served by the Moderator and Elders the first Sunday of each month & certain other occasions. Holy Communion will be served on October 5th.

Financial Report

July was our worst month this year, so far. We took in a total of \$10,084.40 for the month and our expenses were \$16,439.03, giving us a negative cash flow of \$6,354.63 for July, and a negative cash flow of \$7,836.74 for the year-to-date.

INCOME					EXPENSES	GAIN/LOSS
	OFFERING	MISSION	FUND R.	TOTAL		
JULY	8,919.28	400.00	765.00	10,084.40	16,439.03	-6,354.63
TO DATE	82,384.61	5,857.16	5,287.17	93,528.94	101,365.45	-7,836.74

So far this year, our finances have followed a pattern similar to last year, with the exception of the months of February and April, where our cash flow was far less than last year. This has left us behind where we were last year at this time by \$14,779.15

The drive to collect school supplies for underprivileged families was successful again this year. We were able to deliver two large boxes of school supplies to the collection center on July 28th. This was another record year for the project. Thanks to the cooperative efforts of several churches in town, 604 backpacks filled with school supplies were handed out to underprivileged children. I'm sure God was smiling that day along with 604 happy children.

Don Root, Stewardship Chairman

What Happened at POV Assembly

September 13, 2014

Gradye Parsons, the Stated Clerk of General Assembly, was our guest at the Assembly and the **preacher** for the opening of the meeting. Gradye spoke in his warm and winsome manner focusing on the ways in which we can truly know and be known to each other. It was a great sermon.

Dedication of the Micah Center—Our host church (Dale Presbyterian) has just finished the construction of an expansion of the Church building to house and more significantly serve the needs of the Dale community. This church is an outward focused mission oriented group. The assembly was part of an entire week-end of work to dedicate this new ministry and focus.

Presentation of the **Commissioners to the 221st General Assembly** was offered. Alan Finnan gave a verbal report and Phil Newton presented his information in written form due to a schedule conflict. The Olivet Administrative Commission reported. The legal issue with the Olivet Presbyterian Church has been settled. The Commission was dissolved with the gratitude of the Presbytery. The details of this settlement will be available online. There was no absolute resolution of some issues.

Various Committees reported on their work.

A Refinement of Presbytery Structure was adopted along with revised bylaws. This has been the result of much work on the part of a task group. Committees have been somewhat redefined and formed in such a way as to offer more responsibility and accountability.

Susan McGhee is initiating her 6th year as our Presbytery Executive.

Larry Jackman, Stated Clerk

NOTE: Friends and members attending Assembly from UPC included Ed Hitchcock, Reverend Robert Lorimer and Reverend Sarah Cochran.

What's Happening in October?

~ OCTOBER 2014 ~

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

Spiritual Growth Opportunities Adults and College Students For Children

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

College Students and Young Adults

UKirk – Various activities check out www.iukirk.com

9 A.M. on Sundays in Anderson Parlor
12:15 P.M. on Tuesday Bible Study with
Reverend Mitch in the Fellowship Hall
6 P.M. on Tuesdays Book Study , in
Fellowship Hall

