

Reaching UP

**United
Presbyterian
Church**

Get to Know the Presbyterian Church

Tis the season of sharing our love for each other, or church, and our beliefs. What do you know about the Presbyterian church as a whole?

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

God comes to us in free and undeserved favor in the person of Jesus Christ who lived, died, and rose for us that we might belong to God and serve Christ in the world. Following Jesus, Presbyterians are engaged in the world and in seeking thoughtful solutions to the challenges of our time.

Presbyterians affirm that God comes to us with grace and love in the person of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose for us so that we might have eternal and abundant life in him. As Christ's disciples, called to ministry in his name, we seek to continue his mission of teaching the truth, feeding the hungry, healing the broken, and welcoming strangers. God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, giving us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be Christ's faithful disciples in the world.

More than two million people call the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) their spiritual home. Worshiping in 10,000 Presbyterian congregations throughout the United States, they engage the communities in which they live and serve with God's love.

Learn about our history, theology, and mission works that spread the Gospel throughout the USA and worldwide at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/101>.

****This information was found on the PCUSA.org website****

Presbyterian 101

Who are we?

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Theology

Social Issues

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If you would like to write an article for the front page of UPC Bloomington's monthly newsletter, please don't be shy. Submissions are welcome. Please mail your suggestions to: 1701 E. Second Street- Bloomington, IN 47401 or email it at upcbloomington@upc.org

Letter from the Pastor



Repetition isn't necessarily a bad thing. We never tire of hearing "Thank you." "Happy Birthday", "Merry Christmas" and "I love you" never grow old. But Advent leading into Christmas can be a tough season. It isn't a slam dunk in terms of *managing it well*.

Joseph Bayly, in his book *The View from a Hearse*, shares an experience of comfort that he received when one of his children died. "I was torn by grief. Someone came and talked to me of God's dealings, of why it happened, of hope beyond the grave. He talked constantly; he said things I knew were true. I was unmoved except to wish he'd go away. He finally did. Another came and sat beside me. He didn't talk. He didn't ask leading questions. He just sat beside me for an hour or more, listened when I said something, answered briefly, prayed simply, and left. I was moved. I was comforted. I hated to see him go."

For me Christmas represents the incarnation – when God became flesh and lived here, just as we do. He brought His Presence to our own. His was a Presence that came along beside us so that He could say, and mean, "I know how you feel. I've been there too." His is a Presence that doesn't ask leading questions, that sits quietly beside us (sometimes not even without our being aware of it). He left too (physically). But Christmas is like the reenactment and the reminder that He's coming back – just like He did before. The weeks ahead – of Advent – will be weeks of waiting and anticipation.

Realistically, I know the Season ahead can be a time of stress and relentless pressure. For many it will be filled with busy rushes here and there. For some it will not be a happy time to remember for it constitutes the Christmases that used to be but no longer are. One of the saddest mistakes we make is giving into the hype and unrealistic expectations of Christmas (smile and be happy) when many are a long way from "smiling and being happy." It reminds us to take it a bit slower, tone down our expectations, watch for those who may be struggling and remind them that you are willing to sit beside them – just like God has done since that very first Christmas so long ago.

Free yourselves from the unrealistic demands of a season that can all too often be totally defined by those who have no clue as to its real power and meaning. Instead claim the promise of what Christmas is and can be, without needing to keep up. Make this a season of rediscovery of the simple message brought to a manger in humble surroundings. Vow to take time to stop at intervals during the season to remember that you aren't alone, that your grief is temporary and that the peace that transcends all our understanding is God's gift for us in these troubled and anxious times. Make it a point to spend time with those whose only wish for the season is that the season be over as quickly and painlessly as possible. It is those people who need to experience again what Joseph Bayly experienced about the all too brief visit – "I was moved. I was comforted. I hated to see him go."

I look forward to seeing you throughout Advent. Take advantage of each Advent worship during the Sunday's and Wednesday's ahead – including the Candlelight Christmas Eve service on the 24th at 7:00 PM.

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 Activities

The past few months have been busy for our youth-

October 19th the UPC youth spent a crisp fall afternoon out at the Mathis Farm in Brown County. We only had a few hours but they were kept busy fishing, riding a horse, climbing walls, rolling down hills, crafting, milking ‘a cow’, finding the gnome, and roasting marshmallows. We would like to thank Darian and Melanie for taking time out of their busy schedule to accommodate us on this annual adventure into the country.

November 9th was the annual youth fundraising lunch. It was a grand success with 34 people in attendance to enjoy the food prepared by the youth families. Thanks go out to Leina for the salad, Stephanie for the corn-bread, Karen for the bean soup, and Michelle and Aline for the desserts. Rachael, Logan, and Rowan set a fine table as well as helping the older boys: Gerrit Jan, Alexander, Noah, Ben, and Thomas serve.

The Like boys have been helping clean up the church and get things organized. The new teen classroom is getting settled in its latest location. The room has a casual seating area for discussion time and a table area when needed. The room can also be used for small meetings.

The communicant’s class had their first meeting in November. We officially have two boys, Ben Heitink and Thomas Like, attending but anyone is welcome to join for some refreshers on what it means to be a member of a Presbyterian Church. The general meeting time is the first Sunday of the month. If you would like to know more details for the upcoming meetings please speak to Rev. Coggin.

UKirk

UKirk is a renewed Presbyterian ministry continuing a longtime legacy of connecting with students at Indiana University. We are community of students bound together in faith: asking together what it means to be servants of Jesus Christ. While we’re Presbyterian in name and reformed in orientation, we welcome students of all faith backgrounds and convictions.

If you’re a student looking for a faith community to call home, if you’re looking for a place to ask tough questions, or if you’re just looking for some free food, come join us, or connect with us— we need and want you to be a part of our community of faith.

Wednesdays On most Wednesday nights we gather together to Sabbath during the week and connect with others from the college and church communities. **Small Groups:** If you’re interested in connecting with others over breakfast, lunch, or coffee midweek we will be coordinating schedules and times. These are oriented towards fellowship and each group will decide the focus of their group. **Mission and Service:** There’s plenty of opportunities at both churches to plug into meaningful ministry and outreach to the community including Saturday Morning Breakfast at FPC, Interfaith Winter Shelter, Language Partners at UPC, and Habitat for Humanity. In the summer, FPC sends groups to Nicaragua and West Virginia to work with local communities for nearly week long trips. **More info at:** <http://ukirk-indiana.com/>

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

3	Dawn Myers
9	Sarah Cochran
10	Lance Like
14	Elaine Hubbard
18	Lou Tompkins

20	Bill Schofield
23	Brenda Wood
27	Jane and Fred Priest Anniversary
28	Aline Haddad

If you would like to make additions to the birthday and anniversary calendar please email: upcbloomington@gmail.com .
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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: upcbloomington@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 December 14th will be Karen Like. The teen class will be taught by Linda Coggin. Pre-K—6th grade on December 21st will be Leina Joseph. The teen class will be taught by Michelle Heitink. 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 December 7th.

Financial Report

October was not a good month, financially. We took in a total of \$12,622.50 for the month and our expenses were \$15,127.50, giving us a negative cash flow of \$2,505.00 for October, and a negative cash flow of \$9,852.00 for the year-to-date.

INCOME					EXPENSES	GAIN/LOSS
	OFFERING	MISSION	FUND R.	TOTAL		
OCT.	9,263.26	1,762.00	1,597.24	12,622.50	15,127.50	-2,505.00
TO DATE	111,481.84	8,419.16	8,909.12	128,810.02	138,662.02	-9,852.00

Our income for October includes \$947.00 from the Peace Offering and a portion of the proceeds from the Ethnic Food Fair. Our net income from the Ethnic Food Fair, after expenses, was \$1,856.01.

As you can see, expenses for the year to date have exceeded income by nearly \$10k. Hopefully we can have good months in November and December. If you are in a position to give something over and above your normal pledge in December, that would be very helpful in bringing us closer to the break-even point for the year.

Don Root, Stewardship Chairman

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

**Something
for Everyone**

We miss you!

Adults and College Students

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



Letters to UPC

To Pastor Mitch and the dear families at UPC: I want to thank you for the many years I have been blessed to be associated with you in your beautiful church! I had 6 years of joyful music-making within the context of the piano class recitals held at UPC, as well as 5 inspirational years as an attendee in the worship services. I want you to know that my time spent with you has been rich and generous and kind. I believe I am being called to a new Season. I leave with a truly grateful heart. You are a bright shining light in the world, whether here in Bloomington, or in your outreach through international missions.

I send this letter with much love and appreciation for the past 23 years of affiliation and friendship. I wish UPC blessings to overflowing, abounding in His Love.

Most sincerely yours in Christ,
Marianne Ackerson

Dear UPC members,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

It's been a while since I last visited you but not a day passes without thinking and praying for you. Your children and their grannies in Uganda think and pray for you every day. They read Bibles and eat meals from their gardens because of the support and foundation that you laid.

For some of you who might be new to this church, in 2003 while living in Bloomington I reached out to all churches in the community asking for help for the orphaned children in Uganda. I had started this ministry with just \$5,000 and needed help to finish two classrooms and hire two teachers. Of all the churches only one responded! UPC's Pastor David Bremer responded and invited me to meet. Since that July 23, 2003, UPC has been involved in the lives of orphaned children in Nyaka village www.nyakaschool.org. UPC provided a tailor to break ground on Nyaka gardens, now we are farming 17 acres of land <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tA9BXkrupY&list=UUZpjoIn1LPUJHn2BDjy0vFA>

You started supporting 56 students in one school, now you are serving 687 students in two schools. 191 of those are in secondary and vocational school. We are now building a vocational and secondary school that will open Feb. 9, 2015, so your children can learn skills and find jobs as soon as they graduate.

All your children live with grandmothers. These 7,006 grannies have an economic venture that you jump-started. Some make baskets, beads, some raise goats, pigs, chicken, while others set up shops or grow crops. Nyaka provides a market for everything they make or grow.

There is now clean water for more than 50,000 people in two villages where your schools are located. This is a partnership between Nyaka, the government, and Rotary clubs including Bloomington North where I used to be a member. You have constructed two community libraries in both villages and stocked them with books including Bibles. You have also completed a clinic that provides basic healthcare for the entire village.

And the best is yet to come!

Please keep us in your prayers and after you watch the video I hope you will be receptive to continue supporting your children and their grannies.

God bless you.

Twesigye Jackson Kaguri @twejaka

Executive Director

<http://www.nyakaschool.org>

O. 517-575-6623

C. 517-402-2787

A Message from: His Eyes

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas,

On behalf of the rest of the board of directors of His Eyes, we hope that you are having a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. We appreciate your support of the His Eyes overall mission, as well as the Colby family, Jana and/or Justin.



For each of them, contributing to their on-going support or sending them a one time gift would be a great blessing to them. Each of them has special needs and challenges as they enter 2015 and could really use a boost to their finances to help them continue to do what they do in Honduras and worry less about the finances they will need to be able to do that.

For the overall work of the mission, we have a number of specific needs/projects for the coming year:

Continuing the work on the new building for the Milk Project (children's outreach program in Tegucigalpa)

Beginning the work on remodeling and renovating the mission house (where short term groups stay when they are with us)

Continuing to enhance the capabilities of the Clinic to supply the needs of more people in the surrounding area

As you look at your year-end giving, we would appreciate your consideration of any of these opportunities to help us reach more people for Christ.

As always, we covet your prayers for the mission, the mission staff, short term teams and the opportunities we all have to spread the Good News to Honduras and our local neighborhood.

I pray that God may richly bless your family in this joyous time of year.

(Mark Haag, His Eyes board of directors president)

Checks can be sent (with a note if your donation is to be designated to a specific area) to:

His Eyes

3036 E Bricklin Ct

Bloomington IN 47401

Do you want a letter or article in the Monthly Newsletter of United Presbyterian Church? Please just call, email, or mail your idea. You can also submit your own article to be published!!!

Address:

1701 E. Second Street

Bloomington, IN 47401

Phone Number: (812) 332-1850

Email Address: upcbloomington@gmail.com

Website: upcbloomington.org

Advent at United Presbyterian Church



Sunday, November 23 – Christ the King Sunday & Hanging ‘O the Greens

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, liturgist Elder Darian McBride

The hanging of the greens with a service of hymns, carols, scriptures and a pastoral mediation

Anthem – *Shepherds Loud Their Praises Singing* – The Chancel Choir, Dr. Sarah Moon, director

Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday in Advent

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, liturgist Elder Souheil Haddad

Lighting of the First Advent Wreath Candle with music and memories of Christmas in the Middle East

Guest Artist Sunghee Kim on piano and organ

Wednesday, December 3 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily led by Reverend Robert Lorimer

Carissa Tucker on piano

Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday in Advent – Deacons Sunday

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, liturgy by the Heitink families

Lighting of the Second Advent Wreath Candle with music and memories of Christmas in The Netherlands

Holy Communion served by Reverend Coggin and the UPC Elders from the table prepared by the Deacons

Guest Artist Stephen Price on piano and organ

Wednesday, December 10 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily led by Reverend Mitch Coggin

Carissa Tucker on piano

Saturday, December 13 – Annual Christmas Party

6 p.m. – Souheil & Alejandra Haddad host a celebration of Christmas at their home, 400 E. Clover Lane

Sunday, December 14 – Third Sunday in Advent

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, liturgy by the Haddad & Spir families
Lighting of the Third Advent Wreath Candle with music and memories of Christmas in Colombia
Anthem – *A Gallery Carol* – The Chancel Choir, Dr. Sarah Moon, director
Guest Artist Erin Booker on harp

Wednesday, December 17 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily led by Commissioned Ruling Elder Alejandra Haddad
Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ

Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, liturgy by the Like family
Lighting of the Fourth Advent Wreath Candle with music and memories of Christmas in the United States
Anthem – *Go Tell it on the Mountain* – The Chancel Choir, Dr. Sarah Moon, director
Guest Artist Chelsea Carlson on harp



December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7 p.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, lighting of the Christ Candle
Anthem – *A Celtic Silent Night* – The Chancel Choir, Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey, director
Holy Communion served by Reverend Coggin and the UPC Elders from the table prepared by the Deacons
Congregational singing of *Silent Night* and the Circle of Light

Sunday, December 28 – Service of Hymns & Carols

10 a.m. – A singing of hymns and carols with lessons led by Reverend Robert Lorimer
Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ

Advent Notes



Home for the Holidays! Dr. Jeeyoon Kim has sent a cheery note to UPC letting us know that she will be in Bloomington for a short time and will attend our Sunday, November 30 worship service. Take the opportunity to warmly welcome her to the service and catch up with her during Fellowship Hour.

Poinsettias: The deadline to participate in the annual UPC Poinsettia Display is November 30. If you'd like to sponsor one or more pots, the sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Each poinsettia pot may be dedicated as you wish or be designated a memorial to a loved one or be in celebration of an event. IF you wish to do this, please make a note in the space provided on the sign-up sheet. The cost remains \$8 per pot and may be paid to Worship Committee members Allen Pease or Stephanie Worden (make checks out to UPC and place *poinsettia* on the memo line).

Hat & Mitten Tree! It's really looking good in Fellowship Hall. Deadline for this is also November 30. Bring in kid and teen size hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and earmuffs. Or, give cash/check to Stephanie Worden and she'll buy hats & mittens for you. On Monday, December 1, the entire collection will be taken to MCUM to be included in gifts for children and teens in need.

Annual Haddad Christmas Dinner – Once again, the gracious Alejandra and Souheil Haddad family will open their home for Christmas Dinner. This year, the friendly doors will be opened on Saturday, December 13 at 6 p.m. so friends and members of UPC can gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. After more than twenty years of hosting this event, the annual Haddad Christmas Party is certainly no less than a Christmas tradition for UPC. All UPC friends and members need do is show up! And eat! And laugh! And sing! It's an act of love from the family and that's why it's such a joyous event. Don't miss it! A sign up is in the Narthex. If you need a ride, please note that on the sign-up sheet.



Home for the Holidays Two! We've also received a cheery note from KyungAe & Pilsoo Kang. They will be visiting Bloomington during the holiday also. They and their son Samuel will be worshipping with us on Sunday, December 21. Let's give them a warm welcome and be sure to catch up with them during Fellowship Hour.

Thank you from the Little Red Wagon!!!

The Little Red Wagon just wants to thank you for being full of food. The holiday season is a joyful one for our church, and the Little Red Wagon loves helping families in need celebrate the season as well.



jes. in the box/Flickr

UPC Scrip Program Needs You

What a wonderful way to help your church!

It doesn't cost you a cent!

Use the UPC Scrip Program to enhance
your holidays!

Each participant receives 100% face value for every
Scrip card purchased and the merchants return a
percentage to the church. It's that easy!

*One Sunday to Order before Christmas!
Order Sunday, December 7 and pick up your order Sunday, December 14.*

A few ideas to use scrip for

Christmas goose? Use UPC Scrip!

Holiday ham? Use UPC Scrip!

Sweet potatoes? Use UPC Scrip!

Mashed potatoes? Use UPC Scrip!

Pumpkin pie for dessert? Use UPC Scrip!

Christmas Tree ornaments? Use UPC Scrip!

Gift wrap & bows? Use UPC Scrip!

Candles for the table? Use UPC Scrip

Christmas dinner centerpiece? Use UPC Scrip!

Host/hostess gifts? Use UPC Scrip!

Gifts for Mom & Dad? Use UPC Scrip!

Gifts for the kids? Use UPC Scrip!

Food donation for United Ministries? Use UPC Scrip!

What's Happening in December?

~ DECEMBER 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Evening Schedule: 6:00pm Overeaters Anonymous 8:00 pm – AA Campus Group	1	2	3 7pm Advent Devotional 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	4 6pm Self Realization 6:30pm AA Women's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	5 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	6 11am Overeaters Anonymous
7 Deacon's Sunday 9am Adult Study 10am Worship and Communion 11am Fellowship	8	9 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	10 7pm Advent Devotional 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	11 6pm Self Realization 6:30pm AA Women's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	12 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	13 11am Overeaters Anonymous 6pm Annual Christmas Party at The Haddads
14 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	15 5:15 Kiwanis	16 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	17 7pm Advent Devotional 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	18 6pm Self Realization 6:30pm AA Women's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	19 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	20 11am Overeaters Anonymous
21 9ast Adult Study 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	22	23 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study 7pm Session	24 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8pm Overeaters Anonymous	25 6pm Self Realization 6:30pm AA Women's Group 8pm AA Campus Group	26 11:45am – Men's Lunch 5:30pm – AA Women's Beginners Meeting 7:00pm – Worship service Temple Shir Tikvah	27 11am Overeaters Anonymous
28 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	29	30 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	31 8pm Overeaters Anonymous			

Happy Holidays