

Reaching UP

United
Presbyterian
Church

Congregation Spotlight: United Presbyterian Church

By: **Katie Broadfoot**

This month, we are highlighting United Presbyterian Church, who has been involved with MCUM since 1988. Over the past 26 years, United Presbyterian has served as both a supporting and member congregation. The congregation has donated more than \$7,000 in unrestricted gifts to MCUM and more than 10,000 pounds of food.

In the recent months, United Presbyterian Church (UPC) has made a huge increase in its food and household item donations. Interim pastor, Mitch Coggin, attributes the growth to moving the location of UPC's collection site, a red wagon, for several years. Only a few months ago, Coggin moved the wagon right outside of the sanctuary and was proud to report that while it used to take months to fill the wagon, it currently takes about two weeks. Great job! Additionally, UPC recently set up a hats, scarves, and mittens tree dedicated to MCUM.

*Member congregations are those in the faith community who, as an entity, have made an unrestricted financial gift to MCUM in the previous calendar year.

**This article was in the December MCUM newsletter

Save the Date

January 25th will be our congregational meeting after church. Please make arrangements to attend!

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Your Help is Needed

From the Fellowship Committee

Judie will be gone from February through March. The fellowship Committee is requesting volunteers to host during these months. There will be a sign up sheet downstairs and anyone who is willing should sign up. Groups and individual families are welcome to share their talents in this area. Please remember fellowship snacks can be very simple.

Letter from the Pastor



“A Holy Urgency” is a concept described in the Alban Institute book entitled *Re-developing The Congregation: A How To For Lasting Change*. This is not an urgency resulting from a crisis, nor is it triggered via a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. A holy urgency is strong, deep and unstoppable, like a mighty river of life flowing from United Presbyterian into Bloomington, Indiana. This is the urgency I want us to tap into during the coming year. It is an urgency to develop a deeper and more consistent walk with Christ, a faithful prayer life, a consistent attendance at worship and an overall hope in the future expressed in our words and actions. God has a deep, abiding, lasting purpose for our church in this community. It is a purpose that only United Presbyterian can achieve.

During the coming year, as your Transitional Pastor, I must insist that we be intentional with the steps of the interim process. These are the tasks that will allow us to be ready to complete our Mission Study, form a Pastor Nominating Committee, and complete our Mission Information Form, which details our mission and ministry to potential pastoral candidates. We spent a great deal of time in 2014 assessing our finances and mission, calling new staff, indentifying and naming new elders and deacons, launching a new Confirmation process, teaching basic Presbyterian beliefs through classes in What Does it Mean To Be a Presbyterian and The Book of Cofessions as well as two Lenten Bible and Book studies. Additionally UPC examined and jumped wholeheartedly into a volunteer commitment in the Interfaith Winter Homeless Shelter and service there at least one night per month. On top of all this we have provided consistent worship, pastoral care to hospitalized and homebound, a mission trip to Buckhorn, KY., and fed over 180 people at the Ethnic Food Fair. NOW as we look forward, the interim tasks urge us forward toward that *holy urgency!* At the risk of being redundant, I list again the interim tasks and a few of their most critical components. I ask that you pray about and help me as we attend to these and other opportunities to move toward our own *holy urgency!*

I. COMING TO TERMS WITH HISTORY

Celebration of what has been good
(We will ask “Why do we do this?” a lot)
Update files, records, systems and processes

II. DISCOVERING A NEW IDENTITY

Ask – Who have we been, Who are we now and Who is God calling us to become?
Mission Study

III.MANAGING SHIFTS OF LEADERSHIP

Honoring and Celebrating Past Leaders
Welcoming new Leadership
Effective Leadership Transition is Job 1

IV. RENEWING DENOMINATIONAL LINKAGES

Who are we as Presbyterians and What Does That Mean?
What does it mean to be a “Connectional” Church?

V.COMMITMENT TO NEW LEADERSHIP AND FUTURE

Appreciation of new leadership and mission

Faithfully, 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

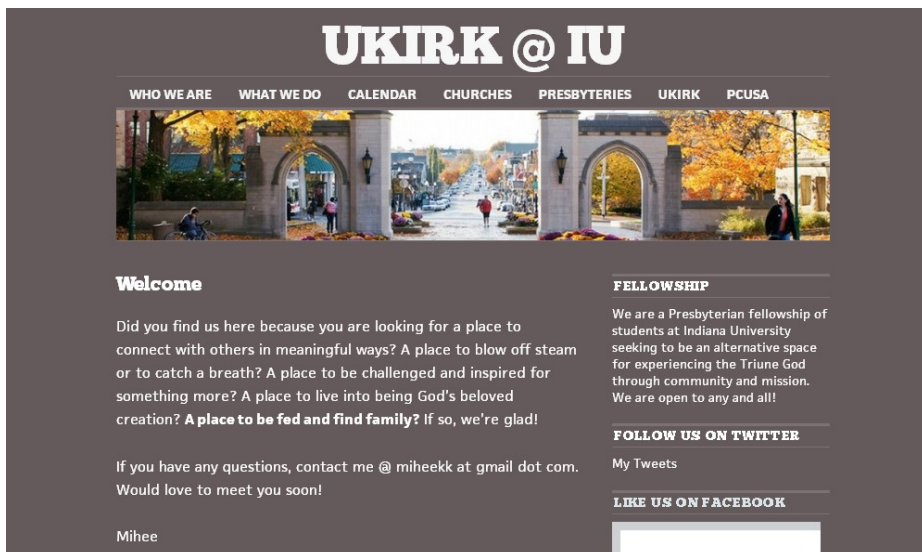
The UPC Youth and young at heart will be going ice skating at Frank Southern Ice Arena on January 18th from 3p-5p. The cost is \$6 entry + \$3 for skate rental. Meet outside the main door at 2:50p so we can get a head count and possibly get a small group discount. We will follow our outing with a trip down the street to Pizza Hut for dinner. Invite your friends and join us for a fun time out on the ice.

Winter is barely upon us but it is already time to start thinking about summer! If you are interested in going to Pyoca this summer the materials are out. You can visit the Pyoca web page (http://www.pyoca.org/camp_info.htm) for the most information or ask Karen for a flier. Online registration begins in January! The church offers scholarships upon request so the fun awaits anyone that is excited to go.

UKirk

Ukirk will begin using our classrooms for their weekly meeting space. It would be wonderful to be able to provide them with the fellowship of mentors and food. If you have any snack items, or want to sponsor an evening meal on a Wednesday night at 7:30. Individual snack items could include: chips, popcorn, cookies, crackers, veggies, pop, water, juice boxes, and candy. Meals could be pizza, sandwiches, soups, burgers.

Let's welcome this group with warm and open arms, in true United Presbyterian fashion.



Your Help is Needed

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Tanya Stephens
Growe
3 Liz Root
5 John Swanson
10 Doug Jones
10 Chelsey Parker

11 Stephanie Haddad
15 Elizabeth Ferenczy
23 Karen Like
25 Virginia McCartney

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 Bob 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

Sunday school classes are taught during church the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month. 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 January 4th.

Financial Report

We were back in positive territory for the month of November. We took in a total of \$13,465.50 for the month and our expenses were \$12,612.25, giving us a positive cash flow of \$853.25 for November, and a negative cash flow of \$8,998.75 for the year-to-date.

INCOME					EXPENSES	GAIN/LOSS
	OFFERING	MISSION	FUND R.	TOTAL		
NOV.	12,147.50	400.00	918.00	13,465.50	12,612.25	853.25
TO DATE	123,629.34	8,819.16	9,827.02	142,275.52	151,274.27	-8,998.75

We gained a little back in November, in part due to it being a five Sunday month. However, contributions still lag behind expenses by \$8,998.75 for the first eleven months. December is usually a good month, so hopefully we can meet the break-even point for the year.

Don Root, Stewardship Chairman

Deadline for Year-end Reports

Church leaders, it's that time of year again! Session members, committee heads, bring your reports on the activities of your committee or events over the past year to the office **no later than Friday, January 9**—sending via email is the best way (upcbloomington@gmail.com!) If you have questions, see UPC's secretary & event coordinator Allen Pease.

Apologies from the Editors

Miriam and Paul Michael have a beautiful tradition of honoring their mother through a Christmas poem. It was left out of the December Reaching UP by accident.

Mary Eloise Sipes sent a thank you card to the Tuesday Noon Bible study group.

To All:
May this beautiful season give you many new reasons to rejoice and praise the Lord.
Have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

Thank you for your visit
Mary Eloise

Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With tiny lights like heaven's stars reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular please wipe away that tear,
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.
I sent you a special gift, from my heavenly home above.

I sent you each a memory, of my undying love.

After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold.

It was always more important in stories Jesus told.
Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do.

For I can't count the blessings or love He has for you.

So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away the tear.
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

In loving Memory of

Merle Michael

Entered into the Kingdom of Heaven on December 12, 1999

From her children,

Miriam and Paul Michael

What's Happening in January?

~ JANUARY 2015 ~

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

For Children

Youth Sunday School (Pre-school through 12th grade)
Following dismissal from worship

College Students and Young Adults

UKirk – Various activities check out www.iukirk.com

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

