

Reaching UP

**United
Presbyterian
Church**

**1701 E.2nd St.
Bloomington, IN
47401**

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Youth In Action

The past two months our youth Group participated in the MCUM Hunger Games sponsored by Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM.) Thank you to everyone who contributed to the MCUM Hunger Games. Regardless of the district winner announced April 26th, the patrons of MCUM are the true winners of your generosity.



On the left you can see the display of our collected food. Above Katie from MCUM is presenting the exciting news of UPCs partnership.

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How can YOU help OUR youth?

Support through participation in their Fundraiser: Don't forget to get your flower orders in to Karen or Melanie by Tuesday, May 5 for delivery on May 9 or 10. The funds raised will be used to pay for our Buckhorn trip.

Be a Mentor: The Buckhorn mission trip centers on a service project for the youth to give back. If you have gardening or handyman skills, would like to help organize the mission store & would like to work along side out youth, contact Karen to learn more, klike@earthlink.net. All are welcome to make the trip to eastern Kentucky June 15-18.

Donate: Pyoca is always accepting donations for their summer camp scholarship fund. If each church in Whitewater and Ohio Valley Presbyteries contributed \$50.00 they could bring 18 new campers to Pyoca that would otherwise not be able to attend. Could our church sponsor a camper at a cost of \$375? You can make a donation during the Sunday collection and mark it for Pyoca.

Celebrate: Join in the celebration to congratulate our young adults on their accomplishment of graduation. We will be having a special fellowship time on Mother's Day with a place for you to contribute cards for: Sami Haddad – IU; Dina Hanania – Purdue; Bill Huyler – IU; Stephanie Haddad – Bloomington North.

Letter from the Pastor



The frontier pastor called on a certain hard-working farmer to encourage him to become more active in the local congregation. The minister appealed to the farmer, "Your farm has been good to you. And the Lord has been good to you. Part of this land belongs to the Lord. God is your partner with this land. So you ought to show your appreciation to God by being more active in your congregation by giving and participating more. The farmer acknowledged, "I admit that the Lord has been good to me but did you ever see this place when the Lord was looking after it by himself?" I have been amazed by the groundswell of accomplishments you have done over the last 2-3 months. Many of you are helping God not to have to do things alone around United Presbyterian Church. You are the eyes, ears, hands and feet for God in this place and without you, God would be in a pickle!

Still God needs us to be faithful in our giving and our worship attendance. You may think that you are not missed if you miss a Sunday or two, but nothing could be further from the truth. You miss an opportunity to worship with others, an opportunity to grow your faith, to give thanks to God for the multitude of ways that God has blessed your life – and we, the Church, misses the contribution of your life in worship and in fellowship. If you haven't attended worship in awhile, come back. We need you and better yet, God needs you even more!

The Lord can and will accomplish more than we can comprehend as long as we continue to be faithful in our attendance, giving and sharing of our time and energy. There is much you can still do for your church, even if you cannot be an elder or deacon. If you can make a call, you can serve your church. If you can write a letter, your church needs you! If you can bake a pie, the church needs you. If you can sing a musical note, the Lord needs you!!!

A Vacation Bible School class happened in which one of the students arms was in a sling. The teacher was worried about the other children's reaction to the child's injury, fearing the others would make fun of the boy. At class neared the ending, the teacher asked the class to join her in their usual closing ceremony. As they put their hands together and began their song, "Here's the church and here's the steeple, open the doors and there's the ..." The awful truth of her own actions struck her as she suddenly realized the boy would be unable to complete making the church. But the moment was saved however when the girl sitting next to the boy reached over with her left hand and placed it up to his right hand and said, "Davy, let's make the church together." In these challenging days in which we live, let's make the church together! I am so fortunate to be a part of your lives and our church during this important time in your history. I am happy to be your pastor and thank you for including me in your lives. It is so fun to continue to make this church together!!!

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.

Update from Nyaka

Just a few years ago (2003), David Bremer responded to a letter from Twesigye Jackson Kaguri asking churches to support his effort to start a primary school for AIDS orphans in his home village of Nyakagezi in Uganda, Africa. He would make sure they were educated in the basics, make sure they were fed, and clothed, as well as taught trade and farming skills to help their families. My how things have grown! There are now 2 primary schools and a new secondary boarding school that opened this year. Libraries are available at all schools with solar power and access to the internet. The original school enrollment of 30 students has grown to 692 in the three schools combined. The students continue to obtain some of the highest scores on the national exams. The very first students that attended Nyaka in P1 are heading off to college or trade school this year. The students are not the only ones affected. The granny program has built houses and taught them skills to sustain their families through selling products that they have made or farmed on land provided by the Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project. Medical and dental needs are fulfilled through clinics and home visits by local doctors and nurses as well as a visiting health care program. Our own Fuad Haddad hopes to intern this summer.

Jackson's dream has become reality! It all started with the support of individuals like you. He has a full time job now looking for large grants to build and support the infrastructure of the school's efforts as well as continuing to reach out to individuals who are always important in its success. Every dollar is appreciated and put to work. You can sponsor a student for \$250 annually with an additional \$125 to cover administrative costs. Your base \$250 donation will go 100% to pay for a child's education and you will get to correspond with that individual. If you are interested in learning more about Nyaka, making a donation, or sponsor a student visit www.nyakaschool.org.

Easter Sunday Thankfulness

Easter Sunday was a beautiful day for a service, breakfast, fellowship, celebration, and an Easter egg hunt on the front lawn. Five youths enjoyed searching high and low for the eggs hidden by the teens. Congratulations to Carissa's sister, Jade Devar-Leazier, for having the closest jelly bean count!

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. Teachers this month are May 10 – PreK-6th grade-Leina Joseph, Teens-David Tucker; May 17 – PreK-6th grade Aline Hamati, Teens-Stephanie Worden. Thank you for volunteering your time.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

6 Alyssa Parker
9 Travis and Elfrida
Bauer Anniversary
14 Fuad Haddad

15 Don and Anne Root
Anniversary
15 Terry Simpson
22 Miriam Michael

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

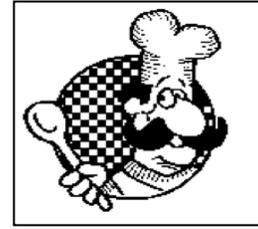


It's a Pizza Party!

Get this on your calendar now!

Let's kick off Summer 2015 with fun!

Saturday, May 30, 2015 – 5 to 8 p.m. at
American Legion Post #18
1800 West Third Street



The Worship Committee invites all to an old fashioned pizza party to benefit UPC's music program. The dinner includes wonderful, home-made pizza with salad, beverage and dessert!

All you can eat!

Only \$7 a person!

Tickets will go on sale the second week in May.

That's right, delicious pizza made right there in the American Legion kitchen—from scratch! It's not that icky, frozen, commercial stuff. Real pizza made by real people!



The purpose of this fun event is to raise funds for our music program so that we don't burden our church budget. The Chancel Choir and the visiting guest artist musicians clearly enhance the worship experience at United Presbyterian Church. The Worship Committee hopes to be able to continue to bring you more of the wonderful special music you've heard so far this year while supporting the choir-building efforts of UPC Music Director Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey. The Worship Committee also feels that this is an excellent way for the Committee and the Congregation to say thank you to the wonderful members of the Chancel Choir and Dr. Moon Stamey for the gift to UPC of their great work and their excellent ministry of music. In order to do so . . .

The Worship Committee needs your assistance!

Buy tickets! Sell tickets!

Let everyone know!

Friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers!

Letter to the Editor:

Dear friends at UPC,

My mum, Paulina, who used to attend your church when she visited me during my treatments, has asked me to send her greetings to you. She still remembers you all.

Thank you and have a blessed day.

Cynthia Kanko (for Paulina Amegashie)

NOTE from the UPC office: Paulina was with us most of 2013 and sang in the UPC Chancel Choir. When her daughter recovered, Paulina returned to Africa. The photo, with Lou Malcom and Michelle Heitink, was taken by Souheil Haddad at her farewell party in Fellowship Hall on December 29, 2013.



Financial Report

Donations were down significantly in March, offsetting a comfortable margin from the first two months. We took in a total of \$7,563.72 for the month and our expenses were \$13,557.87, giving us a negative cash flow of \$5,994.15 for March and a positive cash flow of \$172.97 for the year to date.

IN-COME					EXPENSES	GAIN/LOS S
	OFFER-	MISSION	FUND R.	TOTAL		
MAR.	7,299.06	140.00	124.66	7,563.72	13,557.87	-5,994.15
TO	39,665.81	1,281.68	154.66	41,102.15	40,929.18	172.97

Last month we reported that \$341.68 had been raised for Monroe County United Ministries during the Souper Bowl collection this year. It has come to light that there were additional checks made out directly to MCUM and other organizations fighting hunger locally. This has raised the total from the Souper Bowl collection to \$491.68

If you attended the annual meeting, you may remember that we had received an attractive offer to purchase a small parcel of undeveloped property that the church has owned for over 100 years. The transaction has been completed and we now have \$15,000 added to our reserves. We owe a debt of gratitude to Donald Griffin of Griffin Realty for working without commission to assist us in negotiating the deal.

It's that time of year, again, when we need to ask you to pay your per-capita, if you are able. The amount for 2015



In Memoriam

Louis Paul Thompkins
December 18, 1952 – April 15, 2015

Louis Paul Thompkins, 62, of Bloomington, lovingly known to us all as “Lou,” passed away at 8:23 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at Kindred Hospital Indianapolis South in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was born December 18, 1952, in Indianapolis, IN, to Zelmar and Lenora (Higgs) Thompkins. Louis was a 1970 graduate of Ellettsville High School, and attended Indiana University. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran enlisting in 1974 serving 6 years in submarine service honorably discharged in 1980. Louis worked at Crane Naval Service Warfare Center for 16 years, retiring in 1997.

He was a member of United Presbyterian Church, Masonic Monroe Lodge #22 and Shriners International, an avid IU football fan, loved model ships and photography. Lou was a long-time active member of United Presbyterian when he left for Iraq as a civilian to work for the United States Military. After his injuries due to enemy military action in 2004, which left him wheelchair bound, Lou maintained his relationship with the church. He is survived by his daughter; Elizabeth Angela Thompkins of Bloomington, his mother; Lenora Anne Thompkins, three brothers; Thomas, Timothy, and David Thompkins, one sister; Sharon Nejfelt. Louis is preceded in death by his father

Funeral Services were held in Bloomington on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at Allen Funeral Home with Rev. Mitchell J. Coggin officiating. Visitation was from 1:00 p.m. to service time. The service was attended by friends and relatives as well as many members of United Presbyterian, numerous veterans from the various branches of the United States Military as well as members of the Masons and Shriners. After the eulogy and prayer, the American Flag-draped coffin followed by the assemblage was led outdoors to bagpipes playing *Amazing Grace*. Once outdoors, members of the military performed a traditional Twenty One Gun Salute which was followed by a trumpet performance of *Taps*. The American Flag was then ceremoniously removed from the coffin, properly folded and presented to daughter Elizabeth Angela Thompkins. Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorial contributions can be made to Wounded Warriors Project. Condolences may be sent to the family at

What's Happening in May?

~ May 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 11:45am – Men's Lunch	2
3 Communion/ Deacons Sunday 9am Adult Study 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	4	5 12 flower orders due 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	6	7	8 11:45am – Men's Lunch	9
10 Graduation Recognition 9am Adult Study 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	11	12 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	13	14	15 11:45am – Men's Lunch	16
17 9am Adult Study 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	18	19 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study 7pm Session	20	21	22 11:45am – Men's Lunch	23
24 Pentecost Offering 9am Adult Study 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	25	26 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study	27	28	29	30
31 9am Adult Study 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship						

Weekly Community Uses of UPC Rooms

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6pm Overeaters Anonymous	5:15pm Kiwanis (2nd Monday)		8pm Overeaters Anonymous	6pm Self Realization	5:30pm – Women's Beginners	11am Overeaters Anonymous
				8pm Campus Group	7:00pm – Temple Shir Tikvah	