

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian Church

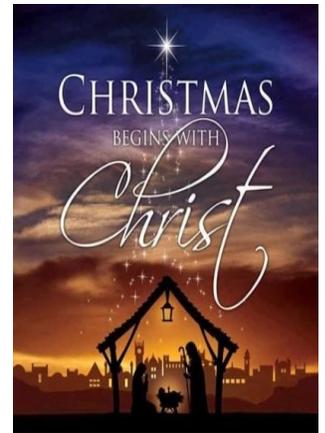
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Christmas is a time of year for family and loved ones to gather together. Our hearts are full of love and loss for the individuals we are no longer able to celebrate with. The following poem, is a poem Miriam Michael prints each year in honor of her mother Merle Michael who entered into the Kingdom of Heaven on December 12, 1999. Let this be a poem for all our loved ones.

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.



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Youth Activities

November 15, Keith Weller, Elaine Hubbard's dad, hosted the 5 UPC teen boys to an afternoon of trap shooting at the Atterbury Shooting Complex. He taught them gun safety, worked on their technique, and even provided them with medals when they successfully completed the shoot without injury! It sounds like we have many sharp shooters in our mist. Thank you to Elaine & Jeremiah for transporting the boys as well as chaperoning the event.



There will be an all youth holiday gathering Sunday, December 13, following fellowship. We will spend the afternoon making crafts and treats as well as enjoy popcorn & a movie. We should be done around 3pm if anyone would like to stay and help assist.



Thanksgiving 2015. For the first time in nearly a year, we were able to spend time with my mom, sister and family. Linda and I were able to get away to think and to plan. We visited my neice's home for the first time and saw my great nephew for the first time.

Thanksgiving 2015 held much for which to be grateful. It would have been easy to focus on the characteristics of past Thanksgivings which no longer hold the same attributes. This was perhaps the first Thanksgiving that we had not been with our son (working in Boston) and/or our daughter (enjoying the holiday with her soon to be in-laws,) my brother recovering from knee surgery in Florida and my mom's worsening dementia which has robbed her of Thanksgivings past. Instead we made a choice to be where we were – both geographically and emotionally and allow the regrets and losses to fade away. We could become mired in the way things “used to be” to the exclusion of “the blessings of here and now” and totally miss the opportunity of gratitude for the ways that God is blessing us now – in this place and in this time.



Jesus reminded, “Consider the lilies of the field. They don't worry about what they'll wear.” They don't have winter and summer clothes stored away. Find your way to a life of gratitude by way of the model of their lives. The birds and the blooms show us how it should be done. Jesus knew about worry...as the Roman army were staring down his neck. Talk about death row...Jesus could teach us a thing or two about what that was like. So perhaps there is method to the madness for what led him to suggest the birds and the blooms as worry-free examples. Maybe it has less to do with what they had around them to worry about (or not) and more to do with what they had on the inside to stabilize their worries and fortify their fears. Birds are victims of the wind. They flow along using the wind as their power. Consider the birds, their needs are met and so are ours.

Flowers are products of the sun and rain, the drought and the flood. Often they grow in a remote desert, on top of a mountain or beside a gravel driveway. They seem oblivious of their surroundings which are not necessary for their beauty. Don't worry about tomorrow. Instead react with gratitude and live with thanksgiving. As we move away from the day of Thanksgiving and into the season of Advent, let's remember to take with us the component of gratitude and trust for what God is doing - now...where God is leading – now and how God is providing – now! You will be amazed how past regrets fade away and the here and now assumes new purpose.

To each of you and your family, I wish a blessed and holy Advent Season.

Mitch

Take Note

There will be a voting meeting on December 13th immediately following the service. Please mark your calendars

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.

Advent at United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday in Advent

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, liturgy by Fadi Haddad
Lighting of the Hope Candle on the Advent Wreath by the Haddad grandchildren
Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ
Guest Artists Carissa Tucker on piano, Natalie Hart on clarinet



Wednesday, December 2 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin; Dr. Sarah Stamey on piano

Sunday, December 6 – Second Sunday in Advent – Deacons Sunday

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, liturgy by Reverend Sarah Cochran
Lighting of the Peace Candle on the Advent Wreath by Michelle, Gerrit Jan & Benjamin Heitink
Holy Communion served by Reverend Coggin and the UPC Elders from the table prepared by the Deacons
Dr. Sarah Stamey on piano and organ

Wednesday, December 9 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily led by Reverend Sarah Cochran; Dr. Sarah Stamey on piano and organ

Saturday, December 12 – Annual Christmas Party

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

Sunday, December 13 – Third Sunday in Advent

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, liturgy by Michelle Heitink
Lighting of the Joy Candle on the Advent Wreath by Bill, Stephanie, Logan & Caroline Worden
Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ – Guest Artist Erin Brooker-Miller on harp

Wednesday, December 16 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily led by Reverend Robert Lorimer; Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ

Sunday, December 20 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

10 a.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, liturgy by Vera Heitink
Lighting of the Love Candle on the Advent Wreath by Leina & Rohan Joseph
Christmas Joy Offering – Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ

Wednesday, December 23 – Advent Devotional

7p.m. – Meditation and Homily led by Reverend Mitch Coggin; Sarah Moon Stamey on piano and organ

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7 p.m. – Worship led by Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin, lighting of the Christ Candle
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 27 – Service of Hymns & Carols

10 a.m. – A service of hymns and carols led by Reverend Sarah Cochran
Second Christmas Joy Offering – Ilze Akerbergs on piano

Betty L. Craig



Betty L. Craig, age 84 of Bloomington passed away Saturday afternoon, November 14, 2015 at Autumn Hills Alzheimer's Special Care Center. She was born February 16, 1931 in Bloomington to Harry Farr and Gladys Perkins Farr.

Thirty five friends and relatives gathered for a Memorial Service to celebrate Betty's life on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the United Presbyterian Church at 11:00 a.m. The Reverend Robert Lorimer presided and The Reverend Mitchell J. Coggin assisted. Dr. Brent Stamey presented a prelude on the church organ and played for the congregational singing of *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* and *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*. Reverend Lorimer presented a Benediction and Dr. Stamey played the postlude.

Betty graduated from Bloomington High School in 1949 and was widely known for her lovely and talented singing abilities. Later that year she married Robert Craig, also of Bloomington on August 6, 1949 at the Fairview United Methodist Church where she and Robert were members. Following her marriage she went on to complete her Bachelors' Degree from Indiana University, where she ultimately became employed.

Betty devoted her professional career to Indiana University as a computer test technician receiving glowing remarks and accolades of her abilities both during her tenure with the university as well as in retirement. She and her husband Robert went on to become members of the United Presbyterian Church where they were both deeply involved with and committed to the Youth Group at the church.

Betty leaves behind her beloved husband Robert E. Craig of Bloomington; son Kevin S. Craig and his wife Carolyn of Riverside, California; son Robert M. Craig of Bloomington, and grandson Christopher Craig. She was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter Kristin G. Spickelmeier, and a grandson Jay Craig Snider.

Immediately following the service, the United Presbyterian Deacons and UPC members prepared and hosted refreshments. The Craig family requested that everyone share this food and time of fellowship with them in memory of their wife and mother. The family extended special thanks to Rev. Lorimer, Rev. Coggin, Dr. Stamey, Allen Pease and the UPC Deacons.

The family encourages the consideration of a memorial contribution in Betty's memory to the Alzheimer's Association Foundation in lieu of floral tributes. Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 handled the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org

Financial Report

While October was better than September, expenses still exceeded income. We took in a total of \$10,894.50 for the month and our expenses were \$14,808.41, giving us a negative cash flow of \$3,913.91 for October and a negative cash flow of \$17,996.38 for the year to date.

INCOME					EXPENSES	GAIN/LOSS
	OFFERING	MISSION	FUND R.	TOTAL		
OCT.	9,643.50	1,051.00	200.00	10,894.50	14,808.41	-3,913.91
TO DATE	105,573.78	7,061.85	5,223.81	117,859.44	135,855.82	-17,996.38

Typically, we are behind in our finances at this time of year, but this year is worse than any in the recent past. As of the end of October, we have spent nearly \$18k more than we have taken in. Unfortunately, this may be due, in part, to the loss of several long time members in recent months. Again this year, we must ask for extra donations in December from those who are financially able to do so.
Don Root, Stewardship Chairman

Pastor David Alfred Bremer

David Alfred Bremer, a Bloomington religious leader for more than 21 years as pastor of the historic United Presbyterian Church, died Oct. 21, 2015, at the age of 67.

David Bremer was born Nov. 22, 1947, in Shelbyville, IN, to John and Beth Bremer. A 1965 graduate of Shelbyville High School, he received degrees from Earlham College and Princeton Theological Seminary, with additional studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.



He is survived by his wife, Brenda Wood; daughter Erin Bremer Johnson (husband Michael Shoemaker) and grandson Aidan Johnson, Vista, CA; Brenda's daughters, Angel Hulen (husband Ron), Camby, and Chris Bartley, Newburgh, and grandchildren Chayna and Kristopher, Newburgh; brothers Robert Bremer (wife Karen Cook), Baton Rouge, LA, and Steven Carl Bremer (wife Paula), Prairie du Sac, WI.

Rev. Bremer served Presbyterian parishes in Indiana and California before settling in for a record 21 year tenure at Bloomington United Presbyterian. A hallmark of his Bloomington pastorship was an effort to make the small Second & Eastside church a center of diversity. He encouraged membership from nations throughout the world. He made it his mission to understand the cultures of his parishioner's and to help them feel at home at UPC and Bloomington. He coordinated a congregational language-partner program to help international students and their families learn conversational English as well as assist them with needs in town. He was also proud of the state of Indiana and took these same students on unique trips to New Harmony and the Feline Rescue Center. He made sure to share his love of the outdoors and nature inviting friends to his oasis in the woods. David encouraged the church to share their building with other cultures, providing a place for a Jewish community to meet as well as a Korean School.

Rev. Bremer deepened his parishioners' lives with enriched Bible studies, encouraging music students to perform during worship services and special performances at the church, supporting the annual International Food Fair with food prepared by members representing the cultures of the church, and a weekly meditation leaving you deep in thought.

David developed his thirst for knowledge through reading, learning about other cultures through his language partners, along with travels to the countries from which they came, as well as visits to the holy lands. On one of his visits he spoke at the National Evangelical Church of Lebanon in Beirut and in Israel a tree was planted in a peace garden honoring David and Brenda.

David's ambitions reached beyond his church. His community activity included ministerial organizations and he was an active member of the Bloomington North Rotary Club. At the request of Brown County residents he assisted in launching the Brown County Fellowship Presbyterian Church and conducted a Wednesday night Bible study. He also conducted a Thursday Bible study at Redbud Hills retirement community.

One of David's proudest involvements was The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project. David received a letter at the church from Twesigye Jackson Kaguri requesting a meeting to learn about a fledgling project to start a school in Uganda, Africa. David knew that he needed to make sure this man's dream came true. Outlined in his book, "A School for My Village", Jackson reflects on David's spearheading involvement with the formation of the Indiana Friends of Nyaka, annual fundraising efforts, and continued involvement to keep the Nyaka miracle flourishing and beyond imagination.

A private family memorial service will be scheduled. Rev. Bremer's request is that any memorials or financial gifts be given to support the Nyaka project (mailing address: The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project, 2970 East Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) www.nyakaschool.org.

What's Happening in December?

~ December 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6pm PNC	2 6pm Book Study 7pm Advent Worship	3	4 11:45am – Men's Lunch	5
6 Communion/ Deacons Sunday 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	7	8 6pm PNC	9 6pm Book Study 7pm Advent Worship	10	11 11:45am – Men's Lunch	12 6pm Haddad Christmas party
13 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11am Voting Meeting 11:15am Fellowship 12pm Youth Holiday Gathering	14	15 6pm PNC 7pm Session	16 6pm Book Study 7pm Advent Worship	17	18 11:45am – Men's Lunch	19
20 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	21	22 6pm PNC	23 6pm Book Study 7pm Advent Worship	24 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas	26
27 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	28	29 6pm PNC	30 6pm Book Study	31		

Weekly Community Uses of UPC Rooms

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6pm Overeaters	5:15pm Kiwanis			6pm Self	5:30pm – Women's	11am Overeaters
				8pm Campus Group		



9 Sarah Cochran
10 Lance Like
11 Andy Notebaert
14 Elaine Hubbard
20 Bill Schofield
23 Brenda Wood
26 Salwa Spir

27 Jane and Fred Priest Anniversary
28 Aline Hamati Haddad
31 Rowan Heitink

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

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