

# Reaching UP

United Presbyterian Church

1701 E. Second Street  
Bloomington, IN  
47401.

812 -332-1850

Do you recall the little girl who came to our first Nyaka Benefit a decade ago and presented Indiana Friends of Nyaka with a huge jar filled with \$800 in coins she collected from her schoolmates in Martinsville? Well, she's not a little girl any longer! Cameron Northern has conducted a string of fascinating fundraisers for the Nyaka Project every year since. In response to a letter from Cameron, the UPC Session agreed to participate in her latest fund raising effort for Nyaka. On Sunday, December 11, Cameron addressed UPC during worship.

She explained that Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project is a school in Uganda that provides food, education and healthcare to children who have lost their parents to AIDS and that she found out about these orphans when she was seven years old and God touched her heart to help them every year through a fundraiser. Cameron shared with us her 2016 fundraiser. The campaign is called \$100 for 100 and the goal is to raise \$100 a day for 100 days. The campaign started on September 23rd which is 100 days until the end of the year. She told us that she knew it's a big goal (\$10,000), but she felt that if she broke it down to a daily goal it would be achievable. She presented a very well done speech along with an excellent slideshow and video and asked UPC if we would consider sponsoring ONE DAY of the campaign. The response? An amazing \$956 was received from the congregation that day! Not one day, but nine and a half days!

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A very grateful, 14 year old freshman from Martinsville High School sends her heartfelt thanks to United Presbyterian Church! Cameron reported to us on December 28 that she is just over \$11,000, more than a thousand over her goal. "God is amazing!" she says.

Here's a pair of photos of the shirt she created to wear during her campaign!



*Matthew 25:40 – I tell you the truth, whatever you do unto the least of these you do unto Me.*

# Letter from the Pastor



January is here! It is a month of doorways...a month of new beginnings...a month where our past meets our future. It is only appropriate that we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord during the month of January. I often wonder what the magi were thinking on their westward trek towards Bethlehem. Following a star without knowing exactly what they would find in a strange land. What they found was a beginning; something new...something heavenly. The coming of the Christ child represents the passing of the old and the reception of the new. Did those "wise men" fully understand what this moment meant? Probably not, but they understood enough, that this was a watershed moment for all of humanity. It was a moment that would alter the very landscape of this turbulent land forever. And as

these magi returned back to their lands, they returned filled a new, as the Christ was revealed to them. Allow yourselves to be filled with joy during this time of year. Allow yourselves that moment of "a-ha!" That moment of realization of just what Jesus Christ means to the world, to the church...and to you.

Blessings to you and yours during this time of Epiphany,

Pastor John



## How to Get Involved

### Sunday Morning

### Anytime

#### Volunteering with Sunday School

Do you love children? Are you excited about crafts and our youth? The Sunday School teachers would love to have you assist them. Please contact Karen Like [KLike@earthlink.net](mailto: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.

#### 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](mailto:rootd@msn.com).

#### 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.

#### 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](mailto:lorimer9@gmail.com) know.

# Youth in Action (and everyone is invited to join)



## *Get Involved*

Starting in January 2017 we will have an elementary Sunday school class taught by an adult and assisted by an older youth. If you would try your hand at teaching our youth please talk to Karen.

We also need help in the nursery. The church is looking into hiring a person to be in weekly attendance from 8:45-11:00a so there is a familiar face in the nursery. If you know anyone that would be interested and has first aid and CPR certifications please speak to Karen. We will also need a person from UPC to assist so that we have two adults present with the youth. Talk to Karen for more details.

## *Reverse Advent—*

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Reverse Advent project. The gifts collected will be distributed the first few weeks in January.



## *FUN --*

Come join the youth January 22, from 3-5pm, at Frank Southern Ice Area for ice skating followed by a short trip down the street for pizza. This is the year to try something new (or something you haven't done in a long time) with friends.

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries



3	Liz Root
5	John Swanson
10	Chelsey Parker
11	Stephanie Haddad
23	Karen Like



## Help Wanted

We are needing volunteers to staff the nursery from 9-11am immediately. It would be wonderful to have enough volunteers to have a rotation. Please let Karen know if you are interested at [klike@earthlink.net](mailto:klike@earthlink.net).

## Financial Report

We were negative again in November. Our income was \$13,944.50 and our expenses were \$17,953.45 giving us a net cash flow of negative \$4,008.95 for the month and negative \$3,079.80 for the year to date. Relocation expenses for Pastor John and his family were a significant portion of our November expenses. Hopefully, we can have a good month in December to allow us to at least break even for the year.

Once again, the generosity of our congregation was demonstrated with over \$500 collected during the special offering for the Nyaka Aids Orphans School.

Don Root



## Letters to the Editor

Dear UPC,  
Happy Holidays from the Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project. We want to wish you a very happy holiday season! You have changed the lives of your students and grandmothers through your generous support this year. Tour love means so much.

Thank you,  
Twesigye Jackson Kaguri

Dear United Presbyterian Friends,  
On behalf of the Bloomington chapter of the Self-Realization Fellowship, it is my pleasure to present you with our annual donation to thank you for allowing us to convene here for our weekly mediation and prayer sessions on Thursday evenings.

In appreciation and divine friendship,  
Robin Roy Gress, secretary  
Self-Realization Fellowship  
[NOTE: A donation of \$193 accompanied the letter]

## Successful Hat and Mitten Tree

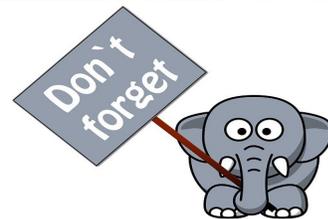
UPC's 2016 Hat & Mitten Tree proved to be a successful venture. Friends and members decorated the tree with enough hats, mittens, scarves, gloves and earmuffs to meet the needs of 74 children and teens. The tree stood in Fellowship Hall throughout November and each week it was festooned with winter garb in child and teen sizes.

The first week of December, Monroe County United Ministries Executive Director Erin Predmore stopped by UPC so that Reverend Napoli could donate the 'decorations' to MCUM. Our Pastor and MCUM Director Erin couldn't resist modeling some of the 'decorations.' UPC Event Coordinator Allen Pease was a little more reserved.



## Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendars to attend our 2017 Congregational Meeting. January 29th at 11:20am.



## Year-end Reports are Due

Church leaders, Session members, committee heads, bring your 2016 reports on your committee or event to the office no later than **Friday, January 6**—sending

# Christmas at the Haddad's

The annual Souheil and Alejandra Haddad Christmas Dinner and Party have become a tradition at United Presbyterian. You know Christmas is right around the corner when the Haddad's host this annual event. And the same was true for this year. Wonderful food and fellowship was shared and topped off by a hearty Christmas Carol sing!



The lovely hostess Alejandra (far left), Rev. John & Mrs. Sarah Napoli and joyous Billy & Mary Lou Rhoades.



Thelma with Bill Schofiled. Is that Mr. & Mrs. Claus or just Sue and Bob? Ale, Barbara, Edie & Pastor John.



Jeremiah and Elaine are having fun. It's Andy Hill, Pastor John, Kathy Milligan & Ale. Angel and Brenda.



Aline & Fadi Haddad. These are the Christmas ladies! Brothers Fadi and Souheil Haddad.



Logan, Caroline, Bill & Stephanie Worden. Sookyung Kim & daughter Doyeun Park. Rev. Sarah & Rev. John.

# Calendar

~ January 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>Communion/ Deacons Sunday</b> 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	2	3 12:15pm Bible Study 6pm Book Study	4	5	6 11:45am – Men’s Lunch	7
8 10am Worship 11am Fellowship. Reception of new members & installation of elders & deacons	9	10 12:15pm Bible Study 6pm Book Study	11	12	13 11:45am – Men’s Lunch	14
15 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	16	17 12:15pm Bible Study 6pm Book Study 7pm Session	18	19	20 11:45am – Men’s Lunch	21
22 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 3-5pm Ice skating	23	24 12:15pm Bible Study 6pm Book Study	25	26	27 11:45am – Men’s Lunch	28
29 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 11:20 am Congregational Meeting	30	31 12:15pm Bible Study 6pm Book Study				

### Weekly Community Uses of UPC Rooms

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6pm Overeaters Anonymous	5:15pm Kiwanis (2nd Monday)		7pm OA	5:30pm Self Realization	5:30pm – Women’s Group	11am Overeaters Anonymous
8pm Campus Group				8pm Campus Group		
				7pm SA (2nd and 4th Thursdays)		

Monthly Newsletter of United Presbyterian Church, 1701 E. Second Street—Bloomington, IN 47401. Editors: Lou Malcomb and Karen Like Andy Hill is Webmaster. Submissions are accepted and welcomed. Please email the team at [UPCBloomington@gmail.com](mailto:UPCBloomington@gmail.com)