

April - July 2020 Reaching U.P.

# Reaching UP

United Presbyterian  
Church

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## Special Edition

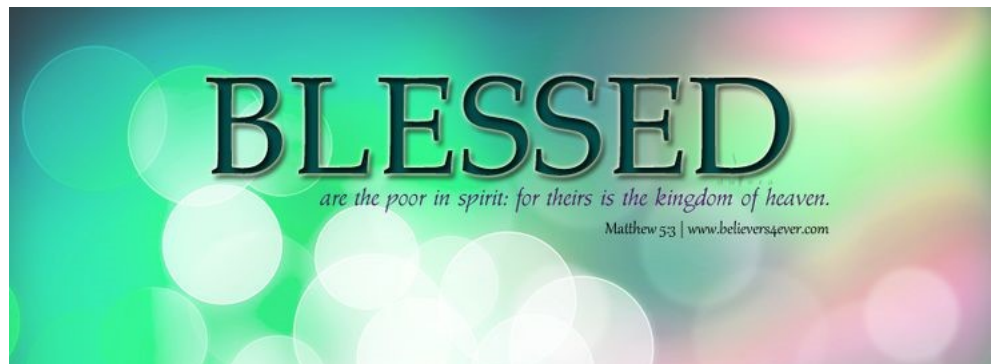
**April, May, June  
&  
July**

It's been a long time! Ain't 2020 turning out to be a year to remember!

This special edition of Reaching U.P. will catch you up on the news of April, May and June, including all the birthdays and anniversaries we missed, and give you an overview of July at UPC!

We sincerely hope that this issue of Reaching U.P. is the launch of returning our newsletter to regular monthly publication.

Please enjoy.



# United Presbyterian Church

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May 20, 2020

To the United Presbyterian Church faith community,

We miss you all and hope that this letter finds you in good health, both mentally, physically, and spiritually. If anyone has a need that needs to be addressed, please contact me or one of the elders. We will do our best to help. If anyone would like to join our virtual activities, we have been holding Sunday service, Tuesday Bible Study, and Thursday Prayer meetings weekly via Zoom. If anyone would like to attend but needs help with technology, let one of us know. We'd love to see you all!

We write to you humbly today to address a subject that none of us are comfortable with: money. Unfortunately, we find ourselves in financial distress. Financial giving in April was less than half of what it usually is. If this trend continues, we will find ourselves in a difficult predicament. Any money given to the church during these uncertain times is definitely appreciated. We know that this pandemic has thrown everyone a curve. We all have to assess our finances and take care of our households as we see fit, this is understood. If you find that giving could still fit into your budget, United Presbyterian Church would benefit and be grateful for your contribution.

We wouldn't be writing about this topic during these precarious times were it not of the utmost importance to our faith community. Financial gifts to the church can be mailed, dropped off (when Allen is in the building), or you can give electronically on our website. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Peace and Grace,  
Reverend John Napoli  
And the Session of United Presbyterian Church

As you know, this letter was sent out May 20! The response from the congregation, members *and* friends, has been amazing and heartwarming. It's still a bit of a struggle, but we are making progress. We are truly in this together.

## How to Get Involved



### Reaching UP

If you are interested in contributing articles or helping to put together the Reaching UP newsletter, please contact Andy Hill at [andy@andyhill.us](mailto:andy@andyhill.us)

### Nursery Attendant

We are needing volunteers to staff the nursery from 9a-11a immediately. Please let Melanie know if you are interested at [susieq\\_msm@yahoo.com](mailto:susieq_msm@yahoo.com).

# April - July Birthdays and Anniversaries

## April

Apr 03 Stephanie Worden

Apr 17 Jesse McBride

Apr 05 Tareq Hanania

Apr 20 Rachel Loop

Apr 06 Jan Berend Heitink

Apr 25 Lance & Karen Like Anniversary

Apr 07 Colleen Swanson

Apr 25 Elfrida Bauer

Apr 11 Cathy Junken

Apr 27 Linda Coggin

Apr 12 Bill Worden

Apr 30 John John Napoli

Apr 15 Noah Like

## May

May 14 Fuad Haddad

May 19 Sue Lorimer

May 15 Don and Anne Root Anniversary

May 22 Miriam Michael

## June

Jun 03 Julie Hammel

Jun 21 Bill and Stephanie Worden Anniversary

Jun 04 Souheil & Alejandra Haddad Anniversary

Jun 22 Robert and Julie Hammel Anniversary

Jun 05 Fadi and Aline Haddad Anniversary

Jun 23 Sami Haddad

Jun 06 Jane Hammel Priest

Jun 23 Dania Parker

Jun 07 Aida Haddad

Jun 27 Thomas Tadao Like

Jun 07 Pastor John & Sarah Napoli Anniversary

Jun 27 Andy Hill

Jun 08 Phillip Addison

Jun 29 Raja Hanania

Jun 12 Allen Pease

## July

Jul 02 Lucinda Wyman

Jul 11 Alejandra Haddad

Jul 03 Benjamin Heitink

Jul 16 Patrick Nyarko

Jul 07 Logan McCloud Worden

Jul 25 Melanie Mathis McBride

Jul 10 Nicholas McBride

Jul 27 Hye-Ryoung Kwon

Jul 10 Matthew McBride



## Backpack Blitz 2020

Monroe County churches are once again teaming up to help provide backpacks and school supplies for area students. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's drive is primarily asking for financial donations or in-kind donations of a single item, i.e. donating 10 spiral notebooks instead of 1 notebook, 2 glue sticks, 7 pencils, etc. which would then need to be sorted and handled by volunteers.

Collection of funds and supplies this yearned to be dropped off at the Salvation Army by Noon on July20. All donations will be given to Monroe County children grades K to 6 and to the Teacher's Warehouse.

Any questions, please contact Monica Clemons at The Salvation Army: 812-336-4310 x100.

There is an online donation portal for Backpack Blitz at: [www.bloomingtonsa.org](http://www.bloomingtonsa.org), all of these funds will go to the Backpack Blitz fund to to purchase supplies in bulk and not for the Salvation Army general fund.

The Salvation Army thanks UPC for the continued support and prayers fro area children.





Send letters to Reaching U.P., UPC, 1701 E. 2nd, Bloomington, IN 47401 or [upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:upcbloomington@gmail.com)  
We have four months of catching up to do!!!

June 2020

Pastor Napoli and the people of UPC,

Thank you more than I can say. It took me a few days to get up the courage to watch the video of Bill's (William Schofield) memorial service because I knew it would bring tears, but I was reminded of how all of you told of your love and experiences with Bill and it cheered me up. You all have been so thoughtful and kind to me and I thank you so much. I will watch this video often.

Thanks for loving Bill, Thelma McPike

April 21, 2020

United Presbyterian,

Thank you for making services,  
Bible study and prayer meetings accessible and interactive for us in  
Florida.

Stay healthy and safe, Rose & John Napoli

March 9, 2020

Dear friends at United Presbyterian,

Thank you for your support of the South Knox Education Foundation and for helping the seniors at South Knox High School. Your gift to the Sharon Like Scholarship Fund, in memory of Sharon, will make a difference in the lives of our children.

Thanks again for your gift which was received by the South Knox  
Education Foundation on March 3, 2020.

Sincerely, Dan Siewers, President

South Knox Education Foundation, Vincennes, Indiana

February, 2020

Dear partners in ministry,

As the 2019 books close, there is much in the PC(USA) for which to be grateful. Congregations across the nation joined together in impressive ways to share the love of Christ through the four churchwide Special Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness and Christmas Joy.

The whole church has come together for this ministry. For the second year in a row, PC(USA) congregations, mid councils and individuals gave more generously than the year before. These efforts have grown and extended the household of God with people devastated by hurricanes, fires, and famines around the world, youth and young adults who received opportunities to grow in faith and service, students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color and with church workers and their families experiencing critical financial need. We at the Office of Special Offerings are grateful for your continued engagement in connectional, Presbyterian mission.

In 2020, we intend to continue celebrating what God is doing through you. Special Offerings' staff is available to assist you in any way we can, so that the transformative work accomplished together will be known and celebrated by all. Contact us at [specialofferings@pcuse.org](mailto:specialofferings@pcuse.org) or 800-728-7228 ext. 5047.

Faithfully yours, Bryce Wiebe, Director of Special Offerings and Appeals

January 7, 2020

Dear friends at United Presbyterian Church,

Happy New Year! Thank you for your generous gift of \$500 on 12/16/2019. At the start of 2020, we're so grateful for dedicated friends like you who provide for Wheeler Mission—Bloomington.

Through your heartfelt kindness, our guests receive the help they need to start anew. You're the reason men and women in our community can find the safety, nourishment, care and hope to rebuild their lives.

Thank you for caring for those who are hurting. You've helped us start this year strong!  
Rick A. Alvis, President/CEO Wheeler Mission

PLAN FOR REOPENING THE CHURCH FOR SERVICES  
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA — Issued June 30, 2020

This plan is for resuming worship services within the church building, beginning Sunday July 5th. It specifies new precautionary steps to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 Virus. These steps are based on guidance from the state of Indiana, Church Mutual Insurance, the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, and local government. It has been approved by the Session of United Presbyterian Church and subject to revision as conditions and guidance change. Adherence to these steps does not guarantee protection against catching the virus, therefore each individual, especially those at higher risk, due to age (65 or older) or pre-existing health conditions, should evaluate their own risk of exposure before attending services at the church. Wherever possible, remote access by video will be made available for those who choose not to attend in person.

**GENERAL:**

1. Anyone having Covid-19 symptoms, such as cough, fever, etc., within the last 14 days is asked not to come into the church building. This also applies to anyone who has been in contact with someone with Covid-19 or Covid-19 symptoms.
2. Anyone on church property is asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing (6 feet apart). Masks will be provided, if needed. Individuals working alone are not required to wear a mask, but should have one available in case someone else enters the room.
3. The kitchen is closed to the general public. Church or Presbytery employees may use the kitchen during working hours, but must disinfect all surfaces used.
4. Group activities such as Bible studies, youth activities, fellowship hour, and outside group meetings will resume at a later time.
5. To reduce contact at the water fountain, please bring your own water & bottle when in the building.

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

1. Observe no contact greetings. Avoid hand shaking or hugs when arriving or departing.
2. Practice enhanced hygiene such as frequent hand washing or sanitizing. Hand sanitizers will be available at entrances, rest rooms, and various other areas. Individuals are also encouraged to bring their own pocket sized sanitizers.
3. There will be no Sunday school, nursery, or fellowship hour. Group activities such as mission trips, VBS, etc. are postponed.
4. Music will be entirely instrumental. There will be no singing and no choir. Guest artists will not include singers or brass, woodwind, or reed instruments.
5. Passing of the peace will not be observed in the traditional manner. If included, it will be done in a way that avoids touching and maintains social distancing.
6. Individuals will not sit in close proximity except for members of the same household. Seating will be marked to adhere to 6 feet of separation.
7. There will be no handouts. Bulletins will be sent by email. Individuals may print a copy or download it to a cell phone. Downloading is preferred. Any printed materials brought to the service must be taken home for disposal.
8. Collection plates will be placed at the exits of the sanctuary in place of the traditional collection. Counters will be provided with gloves to avoid contact.
9. If the Lord's Supper is observed, it will be done with individual communion pods, which will be provided.
10. Overhead fans will be left off to avoid spreading particles through the air.
11. Please refer to the seating/exiting diagram. Certain pew sections are blocked off to ensure social distancing. Only people in the same household should sit together. Most sections are arranged for a maximum of 3 people together. There are two sections on the right side set aside for families of up to 5 persons. Social distancing should also be observed when exiting. Exiting should be from rear to front. People on the right side pew sections should exit through the side door and down through the Eastside Drive side exit. People on the left side section of pews should exit through the rear door and down to the parking lot exit.

# Hearing the Voices of Peoples Long Silenced as We Work with Others for Justice, Freedom, and Peace

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

Words have not come easily to me since I saw the video of George Floyd's murder, his neck pinned down by the knee of a white police officer while three other police officers looked on. Words have not come easily as protests and riots have erupted across the country and now around the world. Words have not come easily as leaders have argued publicly as to how to respond. Words have not come easily.

I have been listening and reading much more than I have been speaking and writing this week. I've listened to the pain and the rage and the despair of people of color, especially black Americans. I've listened to George Floyd's haunting words as he lay dying, "I can't breathe." I've listened to the pain of his loved ones, as well as the loved ones of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. What's more, the voices of these recent weeks are not new; they are part of the painful chorus of cries that have called out through the years.

I've listened to countless commentaries, social media posts, news reports, the musings and statements of friends and colleagues. I've listened to prophetic words from pastors around this presbytery and across the church.

I've listened to the words of scripture, such as these from the prophet Micah:

*[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

and these from the prophet Amos:

*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

and these from Jesus in the Gospel of John:

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*

I've listened to the confessions of our Reformed Faith, such as these words from the Confession of 1967:

*God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In his reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between sisters and brothers and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary. The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church, and the exercise of political rights. Therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it. Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize others, however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess.*

and these from A Brief Statement of Faith:

*In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.*

I have sat in silence to listen for what is rising in my own mind and heart, and for the intercession of the Spirit with sighs too deep for words. In this time of listening and wondering, of discerning what to say and how to say it, I know that now it is time to speak. I will not say what is in my mind and on my heart perfectly, but it is time to speak. I know that everyone will not agree with me, but it is time to speak. I am not speaking for this presbytery, as I do not have the authority to do so. Rather, I am speaking to this presbytery, and to anyone who wants to listen.

Black Lives Matter. I am aware that all lives matter, as we often hear. Of course, they do. But in these days and at this time, it is important for me to say without equivocation that **black** lives matter.

As I hear for calls of reconciliation, I am reminded that reconciliation is inextricably bound with justice. The Confession of 1967 speaks

## Hearing the Voices of Peoples Long Silenced as We Work with Others for Justice, Freedom and Peace (continued)

of the reconciling love of God, yes – but it is a reconciling love that *breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference*. It is not just when people are judged by the color of their skin. We cannot be truly reconciled to one another if justice is not done.

I woke up white this morning, as I do every morning, but I don't think often enough about what it means to be white. I don't think about being part of the dominant – or dominating – culture. I don't think often enough about the advantages that are mine because of my race and culture, and the ways in which I perpetuate the systems that make it so.

Sometimes when I am hesitant to speak, it is because I am afraid that I will say the wrong thing. I want to be part of the solution, I tell myself, not part of the problem! In fact, however, I am both. I am part of the problem because I live in a system that privileges me in ways that I do not acknowledge. And I am part of the solution – or I can be – as I open my eyes and ears and heart and mind to understand and confront my part in this system. It is often uncomfortable work, and it is nobody's job to help me feel comfortable.

I know that this ongoing work will better equip me to promote racial justice in church and society. As I become more aware of the part I play in the problem of institutional and systemic racism, I can work with others more effectively as we seek to to dismantle it and create structures that are more just.

Through it all, I am a child of God. All of us are. God is not finished with us, for God has sent to us the Holy Spirit in this broken and fearful world, giving us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. I am not in this work alone, and neither are you.

These are some of the affirmations that have come to mind recently. They are not new or original or unique. I invite you to share with me what words have come to you these days, what affirmations or questions or concerns you have. I will not be able to respond to all of them, but I promise to read and hold them, even as I promise to hold each of you in prayer.

The Presbytery Council met this morning, as we do each Wednesday, and is in the process of developing a statement that I will forward to you in the coming days. And I commend to you this [video statement](#) from the Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

As we in the Presbytery of Ohio Valley gathered around our tables on Maundy Thursday, we heard these words from Jesus: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." And now, as we have celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit on that first Christian Pentecost, we trust that the fire and the wind of that same Spirit will continue to move through the Church so that we may truly be a people of love with the courage to do the hard and necessary work that is before us.

May Christ's Church, in all things, stand faithful.

Peace and all good,

**Susan**

The Rev'd. Susan C. McGhee

## Invitation to a Book Study on Race

Sent to UPC on June 19, 2020 . . .

Dear Family in Christ:

[Juneteenth](#) is a good day to invite members and friends of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley to join me in reading and discussing the New York Times Bestseller [So You Want to Talk About Race](#), by Ijeoma Oluo. Here are a couple of reviews of her book:

From the National Book Review, "Oluo gives us--both white people and people of color--that language to engage in clear, constructive, and confident dialogue with each other about how to deal with racial prejudices and biases."

From Salon, "Generous and empathetic, yet usefully blunt . . . it's for anyone who wants to be smarter and more empathetic about matters of race and engage in more productive anti-racist action."

I believe that reading and discussing a book such as this is an important next step as we explore, address, and challenge issues around racism and white supremacy. I know that I have much to learn, and I suspect that I am not alone.

If you are interested in joining me (which we'll conduct by videoconference), here's what to do:

Use this link to register by email: [Email to Susan](#)

Order the book. Here's the link on [amazon.com](#): [So You Want to Talk About Race](#)

Read the preface and chapter one

Join me for the first meeting on Tuesday, July 28, at 10:00am EDT / 9:00am CDT.

Thank you for considering this invitation!

Peace and all good, The Rev'd. Susan C. McGhee

Executive Presbyter, The Presbytery of Ohio Valley

## UPC assists MCUM in Need

In January and February Monroe County United Ministries was struggling to meet the needs of the hungry as well as provide child care, emotional counseling and financial counseling and assistance. In January UPC friends and members collected 197 pounds of food and donated \$259.47 for MCUM. In March we collected 48 pounds of food and another 48 pounds in April. In May, upon hearing how desperate the situation was becoming at MCUM, UPC organized a special social distancing, no contact *drive thru* food drive. We collected a whopping 289 pounds of food items and cleaning/hygiene products.

By June, Due to COVID-19, MCUM was facing, not only facing a tremendous challenge in meeting the needs of the hungry, it also had to make changes to its annual Each One Feed One Food Drive to protect the safety of volunteers and staff. EOFO was moved to June 27-28 and, rather than collecting donations in person at Monroe County food stores volunteers were asked to provide no contact drop off locations.

UPC volunteered to be a drop off point on Saturday, June 27 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Allen Pease sent out emails to the UPC e-list and to the Eastside Neighborhood Association e-list with details. Simply drive up to UPC's rear back doors, open your car door and set your donation on the rubber mat and drive away.

At 3 that afternoon, MCUM volunteers picked up an amazing 200 pounds of food items and cleaning/hygiene products along with \$305 in cash/check donations.

A very grateful MCUM staff heartily thanks the friends and members of UPC.





# Indonesia

Our first Dining In of the 21st Century was held Tuesday, February 18, 2020 celebrating UPC's diversity. Vera Heitink preparing a typical Indonesian evening meal. It was a huge success with a sell out crowd.



UPC's Ethnic Food Fair (founded in 2000) was a vision of UPC. It strongly signaled UPC's diversity, but became so cumbersome that we had to discontinue it. With an eye toward maintaining the signaling of UPC's diversity and inclusiveness in a more manageable format, Vera Heitink proposed Dining In and it worked!

Instead of dining out with a restaurant full of strangers, we *dined in* and shared an evening of fellowship and fine food with church family, friends and neighbors.



Andy Hill brought his entire posse and everyone was delighted to see Brenda Wood Bremer who dined with Chef Vera among the beautiful Indonesian décor. At far left Collen Swanson, Fadi Haddad and John Swanson agreed that it was a great meal as



did Sue & Bob Lorimier. Raja Hanania, son Tareq and wife Rula had a great time as did Tom & Linda Brown, Tareq, Lizzie Pearson & Fuad Haddad.

The Like family table included friends and co-workers who complemented the Indonesian cuisine.

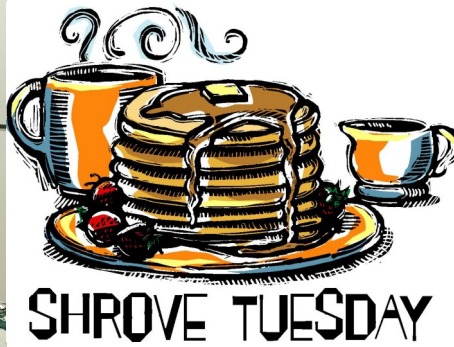




# Remember February 25, 2020?



sausage.  
Virginia



Colleen prepped and  
cooked. Vera did the  
Pastor was Head Chef.  
&  
David helped set up. We



were  
happy to see  
Billy  
and  
Mary Lou.



The  
Worden Clan sat  
down with the  
Napoli Clan.

The Root family  
and friend en-  
joyed the meal  
and the



festivities. Both Bill  
Worden and Sarah  
Napoli gave high  
scores for the pancake  
and sausage buffet.  
David and his sister  
Virginia took a break

