

# Reaching UP

United Presbyterian  
Church

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## UPC Guest Artist Program Announcement



Since UPC has not been able to present, because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Movies with Meaning fundraiser or the annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser to benefit the UPC Guest Artist program, the UPC Worship Team announces UPC's first ever *On-Line Musical Bingo!*

Join us on Tuesday evenings September 15, 22 and 29 (via Zoom) for music, prizes, and fellowship. To play: purchase one or more Musical Bingo cards (one for \$5, two for \$9, three for \$14, four for \$19 and five for \$24) and print them at home or have us print and send them to you. Then join us at 7 p.m. each Tuesday.

Music Director Benjamin Watkins will randomly draw and perform songs from our church music canon (with a few additions!) and the first person to check off five titles in a row on their card (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) gets to choose an item from our prize table. Prizes include UPC merchandise, baked goods by UPC bakers, items donated by IU Alumni Association, Quill Office Supplies and other Bloomington businesses as well as area restaurant gift cards.

Look for more details in your weekly UPC emails.

## A Beacon of Hope in a Broken Beirut.

A report from Christianity Today

Souheil Haddad brought Reaching U.P.'s attention to this article from Christianity Today Online regarding the Haddad family church in Beirut which is the oldest Arabic-speaking Protestant church in the Middle East. The damage to the structure from the recent disastrous explosion is gut wrenching to view. The article and photos give a clear view of the extent of the situation throughout the city of Beirut. In several photos, the cross of Jesus, an exact replica of which hangs in UPC's Chancel, can be seen. Those receiving Reaching U.P. via email can download the newsletter and then click on the link below to read the article and see the photos. The link can also be typed in to your URL to see the article and photos.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/august/beirut-explosion-national-evangelical-church-lebanon.html>

Send letters to Reaching U.P., UPC, 1701 E. 2nd, Bloomington, IN 47401 or [upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:upcbloomington@gmail.com)

To my UPC family,

Thank you so much for your cards and prayers for my mom May over the past years. It meant a lot during this difficult time.

Mom is finally resting where there is no pain or suffering. It was a long battle, lost, but with many blessings along the way.

With my love,

Aline Hamati Haddad

Dear members of United Presbyterian Church,

Thank you on behalf of the children, families and individuals served by Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM).

Your generous donation is helping us to continue to give assistance through our Self-Sufficiency Center giving out food and hygiene items, our quality Child Care Center and our professional Life Counseling services; all supporting low-income families to maintain their independence.

May you be blessed as you have blessed others.

Again, thank you,

Judith A. Olmsted, MCUM Board Member

Dear United Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of all the men, women and children you have helped to build new lives, thank you for your recent donation [of \$333].

Henry Ford once said, "Your best friend is the one who helps you become the best that you can be." You are indeed a friend to those we serve. Through your kindness and generosity, we are able to help struggling fathers regain their self-esteem and support their families once again. We can help young mothers better manage their finances so they may someday be able to go back to school or afford a safer apartment for their children.

Thank you again for your gift, and for helping us help others become the best they can be. Thank you for being a friend.

Sincerely,

Captains Gordon & Cindy Hoag, Salvation Army Corps Officers

## UPC to Join Salvation Army Winter Coat Drive!

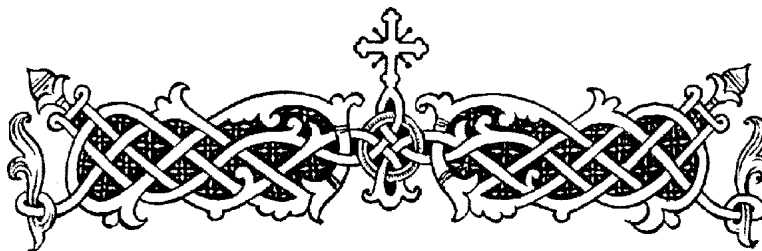


United Presbyterian has agreed to partner with the Salvation Army for their 2020 Winter Coat Drive. According to Cassy Klindt, Salvation Army Youth Director, in the past collection boxes have been placed at local businesses. However, with COVID-19, some businesses are closed and others don't have the space due to social distancing guidelines. So Cassy reached out to Bloomington churches and UPC has agreed to help. The Salvation Army Winter Coat Drive runs from the beginning of October to the beginning of November. All of the donated coats are given to anyone who comes to the Salvation Army facility in need of a

winter coat.

### **Plan ahead!**

A collection box for winter coats will be placed in the narthex by the Salvation Army on Sunday, October 4 and will remain there through and including Sunday, November 1. Please donate new and gently used winter coats for men, women, teens, children and toddlers. This notice gives us several weeks to go through our closets, check with friends and relatives about their closets and/or shop coat sales. Cassy also noted that donations of winter hats, gloves and scarves would be welcome.



## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 6 — Liturgist: Elder Bob Hammel; sermon presented by Reverend John Napoli.  
Holy Communion served by Reverend John Napoli.



Communion Pods may be found in the Narthex as you enter.

September 13 — Liturgist: Deacon & Elder Souheil Haddad; sermon presented by Reverend John Napoli

September 20 — Liturgist: Deacon Vera Heitink; sermon presented by Reverend John Napoli

September 27 — Liturgist: Jim Haverstock; sermon presented by Reverend John Napoli

### Don't forget the Scrip Program!

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries



Sep 2 Lamis & Nabil Turk Anniversary, Sep 15 Alexander Like  
Agatha Nyarko

Sep 3 Don Root

Sep 7 Judie Iverson

Sep 9 Lamis Turk

Sep 11 Glenda Nyarko

Sep 15 Betty Thacker Chipman

Sep 17 Yasmina Haddad, Sarah Napoli

Sep 21 Fadi Haddad

Sep 27 Billy Rhoades

Sep 29 Vera and Gerrit Heitink  
Anniversary



## Financial Report

Income more than covered expenses in July, something we aren't used to seeing during the summer months. July income was \$15,147 and expenses were \$14,804 giving us a net cash flow of \$343 for July. For the year to date, our income is ahead of expenses by \$8,431.

We are truly grateful to everyone for continuing to support our church in spite of so many of the activities we all enjoy being on hold. Your continued prayers and financial support will ensure that we come out of these difficult times stronger than ever.

Don Root

## Honoring Bob Hammel

Bob and Julie Hammel have been an integral part of United Presbyterian for years. After attending UPC for some time, they became members 43 years ago in August of 1977. And they have been active members serving the church in many ways in positions of governance and on many committees. They are cherished members of our flock. Reaching U.P. is happy to share with our readers a wonderful joint announcement made recently by the three Rotary Clubs in Bloomington.

Bob Hammel has been selected as the Honoree for the Sixth Annual Rotary Toast – Service Above Self Award fundraiser to be held on-line Friday, November 6, 2020 from 7 to 8 p.m..

“For more than 50 years, Bob has told the stories of our athletes and, in the process, created a sense of pride and accomplishment in our community,” said Toast Chair Sara Laughlin.

Hammel covered the 1968 Rose Bowl, the 1972 Munich Olympics, IU’s perfect basketball season in 1976 and subsequent national championships in 1981 and 1987, and five Olympics. He also covered hundreds of college and high school athletes and sports events. He was named Indiana Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sports Media Association 17 times.

Hammel received the 1995 Curt Gowdy Award from the National Basketball Hall of Fame and the 1996 Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame’s Silver Medal Award for distinguished service. He also has been awarded the Bert McGrane Award by the College Football Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame in 1997.

He has authored 14 books, including his memoir, six on IU basketball and Bob Knight, and two on revolutionary Cook Group Founder Bill Cook.

In 2015-16 Hammel told the story of legendary Negro American Baseball League All-Star George Shively, buried in an unmarked grave at Rose Hill Cemetery since 1962. Hammel led an effort to place a significant gravestone for Shively and markers for his family and five other African Americans in the same previously unmarked plot. He also pulled together a well-attended dedication.

Hammel and his wife Julie support many community causes, including the Hoosier Hills Food Bank and Book Fair, the Monroe County History Center and the Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame. Three annually awarded IU scholarships in his name have provided more than \$75,000.

Retired Herald-Times Editor Bob Zaltsberg will serve as emcee. Toasting Hammel will be son Dr. Richard Hammel of Cincinnati, author Michael Koryta, legendary IU running back and Lighthouse Community Church Pastor Anthony Thompson, Cook Group President Pete Yonkman, and Carolyn Stewart Walters and Kay Stewart, daughters of the late Bloomington Herald-Telephone Publisher Perry Stewart.

Begun in 2015, the Toast recognizes community leaders who reflect the Rotary motto of “service above self.” Half of the proceeds from the Toast will benefit Hammel’s chosen charity, Hoosier Hills Food Bank. The other half will benefit the three clubs’ other local charitable causes.

With the cancellation of the Book Fair, the Food Bank’s major fundraiser, and increased demand for food, support for the Rotary Toast is especially critical this year.

The first five years the Toast raised over \$210,000. Previous honorees are Dr. Larry Rink (2015), Ron Remak (2016), Becky Hrisomalos (2017), Connie & Steve Ferguson (2018), and Cary Curry (2019).



Bob at June 2019 book signing in the UPC Fellowship Hall with (from left) daughter & son-in law Jane & Fred Priest and wife Julie.

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## A Response to COVID 19 from Our Executive Presbyter

I didn't think it would be this long.

As I sit in my living room, looking out on the trees in my back yard, I watched as the bare branches of March's late winter gave way to the springtime buds and flowers of April and May, and now to the summer green of August. And this week, the temperatures are beginning to suggest that autumn is around the corner.

I didn't think it would be this long. I suspect that most of us did not. And it is not over. While Governor Holcomb has lifted some restrictions put in place at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, some restrictions continue, and new ones have been issued. School districts, universities, and colleges are making excruciating decisions about if and when and how to resume on-site education. Parents and teachers wonder and worry as well. City and county governments consider how best to proceed. Restaurants, salons, stores, and shops weigh their options, as do members of the community who long to patronize them.

Churches are no exception. Pastors, sessions, staff, and individual members continue to discern what is best. Some of our congregations have returned to in-person worship, many also offering a virtual option. Others have not yet decided to meet in person. And some congregations began to meet in person, then decided to return for a while to virtual worship only. If your session decides that it needs to push the "pause" button on in-person worship, we encourage you not to see this as a step backwards. Every step we take in the direction of the health and safety of our people is always a step forward. The Presbytery Council, in its meeting today, asked me to urge continued discernment and caution as you make your way through these difficult times.

I encourage you to watch [this message](#) from the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who cautions us not to be in a hurry. The link will take you to a PC(USA) webpage; please scroll down until you find the video.

It is important to acknowledge what we've lost and who we've lost, to name these out loud so that we do not bear the burdens alone. It's important to reach out, to let others know about how you're doing, and to check in with loved ones, neighbors, members of your congregation.

And even in the midst of the restrictions that we're facing, it's also important to pay attention to and give thanks for what we are able to do, the creative ways that congregations and their leaders are in ministry in these days. Of course, it's not perfect. It never was. Through it all, though, God is at work.

As we navigate our way through this strange and difficult (and long) season, I continue to pray that we will find ourselves stronger, and wiser, and more compassionate, that we will be more loving, more patient with ourselves and with others, kinder, gentler, that we can take things a little more slowly, and make space for God to do something new in us.

I long for and hope for the day when we will see one another with uncovered face, when we will be able to sing together and share a meal together, when we will be able to serve side-by-side. Most of all, however, I hope that we will continue to exercise sound judgement and strong faith, waiting on the Lord, who gives us all that we need in every circumstance.

Please know that I love you, each of you and all of you.

Peace and all good,

***Susan***

The Reverend Susan C. McGhee, Executive Presbyter

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley

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My work is supported by the partnership and generosity of congregations in the presbytery, through per capita dollars and shared mission funds.



## Meet the Student! Alejandra Spir Haddad

In the Fall 2019 edition of *On the Hill*, the quarterly magazine of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary & School of Theology, United Presbyterian Church Elder Alejandra Haddad was the subject of a feature titled “Meet the Student.” The beautiful St. Meinrad campus is in the tiny town of St. Meinrad near Jasper, Indiana. The commute is two hours each way for her studies. *Reaching U.P.* thought our readers would also like to enjoy this article, so here it is.



*Saint Meinrad*

Reprinted courtesy of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

**City of Residence:** Bloomington, Indiana

**Degree studying for at Saint Meinrad:** Master’s in theology and Certificate in Spiritual Direction

*[NOTE: Since this was published, Alejandra earned the Spiritual Direction Certificate and will soon receive the Master’s degree]*

**When did you begin your studies?** Fall 2015

**What influenced you to begin studying for a master’s degree in theology?** I’ve been in ministry for a few years. I am a lay pastor in the Presbyterian Church USA. I felt I needed to grow more and to learn more so I could serve better.

**What else are you doing besides seeking a master’s degree?** I’ve been married for 30 years, and I have three children who are now young adults. I am a lay pastor, a Benedictine Oblate, and I serve as spiritual counselor in women’s Emmaus and girls’ Chrysalis and Journey retreats in the Hoosier Hills Emmaus community. I am also a dentist.

**Favorite saint and why?** Julian of Norwich. She is also my oblate name. Reading her book on her visions was an incredibly enriching experience for me. Her revelation of God as our tender Mother and her conviction that “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well” were a beautiful gift to me.

**Favorite Scripture verse and why?** Corinthians 4:7-10: “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.” To me, this passage carries a profound message of hope.

**Hobbies?** Yoga, reading.

**What aspect of your coursework has been most rewarding?** Every class that I have taken has given me the opportunity to read books that I would have never read on my own. I also have enjoyed the class discussions with my professors and my classmates.

**What aspect of your coursework has been most challenging?** Writing papers, although with time writing has become easier and more enjoyable.

**What plans, if any, do you have after you receive your**

**degree?** I plan to continue with my ministry, but I’m also excited to start my practice of spiritual direction. I plan to continue taking classes at Saint Meinrad as long as I can. To me, this place is a fountain of knowledge and peace and I want to continue drinking from it.

**Other comments?** I am forever grateful for the opportunity to be a student at Saint Meinrad. This journey has been a life-changing experience.



## Peace and Global Witness Offering



### Together We Are Building God's Household of Peace

Our work of peace and reconciliation is supported by gifts to the PC(USA) Peace & Global Witness Offering. These gifts also unite us with Presbyterian peacemakers across the country and the world who are active, not passive; who are doing, not waiting.

25% of this Offering stays with individual congregations to support local peacemaking and reconciliation efforts and ministries.

25% of this Offering will go to mid councils to join congregations in support of peacemaking throughout presbyteries and synods.

50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians world-wide.

**We are the peacemakers. We are the Church, Together. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.**

United Presbyterian Church

**World Communion Sunday**

**October 4, 2020 — 10:00 a.m.**

Message — Reverend John Napoli

Liturgy — Elder Alejandra Haddad

Sacred Music — Music Director Benjamin Watkins

Serving of Holy Communion — Rev. John Napoli

Receiving of the . . .

**PC(USA) Peace and Global Witness Offering**