

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian
Church

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Inside this Edition	
2	Worship Schedule
2	How to Get Involved
3	Holiday Scrip
3	Birthdays and Anniversaries
3	Financial Report
4	NYAKA Thank you!
4	Covid Update
5	Christmas Joy Offering
6	Poinsettias
6	Hat and Mitten Tree

UPC Christmas Music Bingo!

In September, UPC's *On-Line Musical Bingo* fundraiser for our Guest Artist Program was a success in fun, fellowship and fundraising! We raised well over \$800! We usually do at least two fundraisers for the Guest Artist Program each year. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak we haven't been able to do Movies with Meaning or the Spaghetti Dinner. As soon as we were done with the bingo, folks were asking us to do it again. So, the UPC Worship Team and Music Director Benjamin Watkins present . . .

On-Line Christmas Music Bingo

Wednesday, December 15 - 7 p.m.

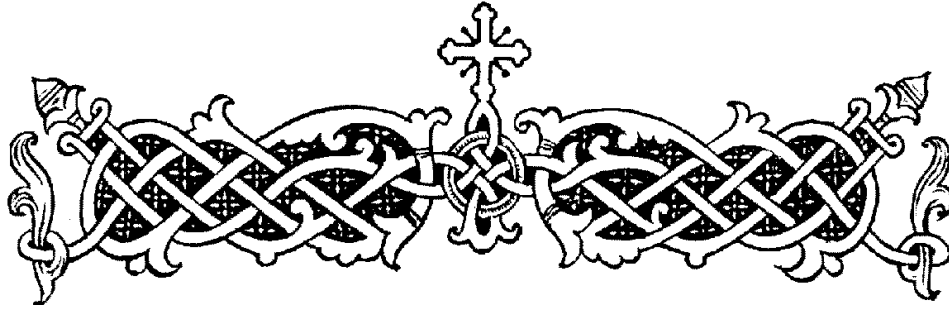
Join us via Zoom for music, prizes, and fellowship.

To play: purchase one or more 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. Benjamin will randomly draw and perform selections of classical, traditional, and secular Christmas music.

There will be four rounds followed by a lighting auction of the left over prizes. Round one selects one prize, second-2 prizes, third-3 prizes and fourth-4 prizes. Most prizes will be baked goods by friends and members.

Look for more details in your weekly UPC emails.





DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Mid-November, in response to the COVID-19 surge, the UPC Session recommended worshippers stay home the remaining Sundays of 2020. The Worship Team has arranged for the pastor, liturgist, music director and camera operator to be in the sanctuary each Sunday to conduct a live service. Those wishing to attend are asked to view the service on Zoom. The UPC email list will receive the link to Zoom via email.



December 6 — **2nd Sunday of Advent & Holy Communion.** Liturgist: Elder Alejandra Haddad; sermon presented by The Reverend John Napoli. Music performed by Olivia Myers on cello and Benjamin Watkins on organ and piano. Lighting of the Advent Wreath Peace Candle by Rev. Napoli and Elder Haddad. Holy Communion served by Rev. Napoli.

December 13 — **3rd Sunday of Advent.** Liturgist: Elder Bob Hammel; sermon presented by Reverend John Napoli. Music by Benjamin Watkins on organ and piano. Lighting of the Advent Wreath Joy Candle by Rev. Napoli and Elder Hammel.

December 20 — **4th Sunday of Advent.** Liturgist: Elder Stephanie Worden; sermon presented by Reverend John Napoli. Music performed by Benjamin Watkins on organ and piano. Lighting of the Advent Wreath Love Candle by Rev. Napoli and Elder Worden.

December 24 — **Christmas Eve Concert.** Benjamin Watkins will present a live concert featuring a mix of sacred, classical, and traditional Christmas music. Lighting of the Advent Wreath Christ Candle by Reverend Napoli.

December 27 — Special Year End Service presented by UPC Music Director Benjamin Watkins live via Zoom from South Carolina.

How to Get Involved



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.

Utilize Scrip

UPC receives a percentage from the merchant for each gift card purchased. Place and purchase your order the first Sunday of the month & pick up the following Sunday.

The Holidays & UPC Scrip!

Pledge to buy your
Christmas, New Year's Eve & New Year's Day supplies
with



UPC Scrip!

Dinners! Centerpieces! Parties! Gifts! Decorations!
Giftwrap! Christmas Trees! Wreaths!

Last Opportunity in 2020

Simply make your purchases using the UPC Scrip Program and you
help your church without spending an extra cent!

Gift a Scrip card itself!

They make great, and attractive, gifts for friends and relatives as well as great courtesy gifts for your mail carrier, teacher, barber, beautician, accountant, housekeeper or secretary.



Simple! Easy!

On Sunday, December 6, bring your Scrip Order Form and your check (or sur-face mail to the church) to Souheil or Allen.

Pick up your UPC Scrip Sunday, December 13!

When you make purchases using UPC Scrip Cards, you receive 100% of face value and UPC gets a percentage back from each and every business!

December Birthdays and Anniversaries



Dec 8 Sookyoung Kim	Dec 28 Patrick & Agatha Nyarko Anniversary
Dec 10 Lance Like	Dec 28 Aline Hamati Haddad
Dec 23 Brenda Wood	Dec 31 Rowan Heitink
Dec 27 Jane and Fred Priest Anniversary	



Financial Report

We were close to breaking even in the month of October. Expenses exceeded income by only \$364. October income was \$14,193 and expenses were \$14,557. For the year to date, our income is still ahead of expenses by \$4,632. Thank you for your continued financial and prayer support during these difficult times.

Don Root

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project — Uganda



We deeply appreciate all of you that gave for Giving Tuesday!

We successfully raised over \$10,000 to help us continue providing a quality and life changing education for our Nyaka children.

Your gift will reach so many children and provide them with the essential tools every child needs, so they can learn, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for helping our children be the best they can be!



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We continue worship of our God and Christ strongly, yet differently.

In response to polite requests from PC(USA) and the Monroe County Department of Health as well as in response to the rising rate of spread of COVID 19, the UPC Session recommended that, beginning with Sunday November 22, worshippers stay home each Sunday through the remainder of 2020.

The UPC Worship Team arranged for the minister, liturgist, music director and camera operator to be in the sanctuary each Sunday to conduct a live service for viewing on Zoom.

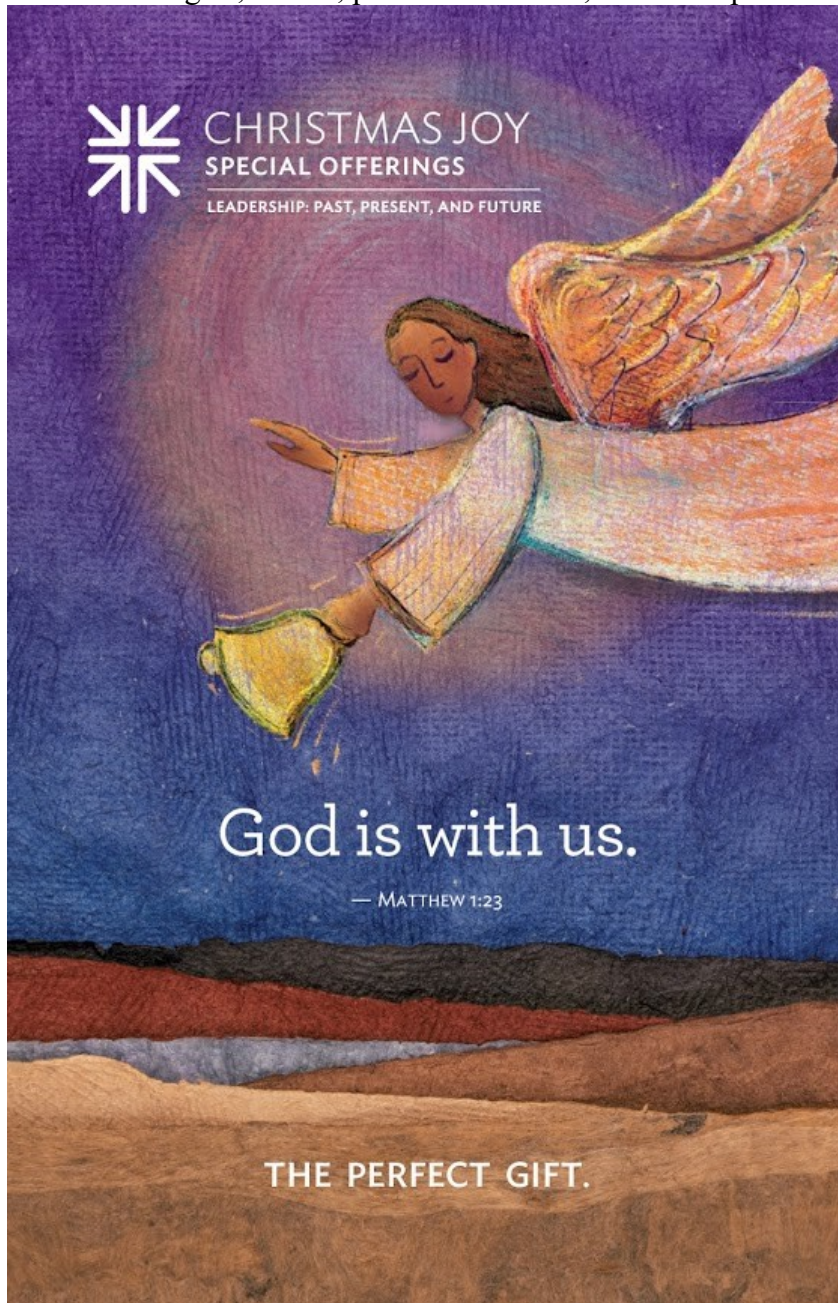
As noted, this has been approved by Session as well as by Clerk Don Root and Reverend John Napoli. The entire UPC email list will receive the link to Zoom via email each week.

There will be no Hanging of the Greens ceremony this year. However, the Worship Team will put up the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary and hang several wreaths. The Advent Wreath Candle Lighting ceremony will be conducted each week, but differently. The Pastor will light each weekly candle while the liturgist proclaims the traditional Advent readings.

Use of the UPC facility by community groups was discontinued as of November 30..

Blessings from your UPC Session Board, UPC Worship Team and your pastor Reverend John Napoli.

The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God.



\$1.3 million of gifts from 2019 are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.

Income supplements from the BOP helped nearly 311 households, assisting retired church workers and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.

Housing supplements from the BOP helped more than 249 households remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.

Shared and Emergency Grants from the BOP helped more than 84 households facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.

AND

\$1.2 million in gifts from 2019 supported new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

Over the past twenty years, The Christmas Joy Offering has been received at United Presbyterian during worship the last two Sundays of the year.

Of course, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, that's not possible this year.

Friends and members are asked to mail their offering to the church or drop off your offering (after calling Allen in the office first).

If making the offering by check, please write Christmas Joy on the memo line.

Make sure offerings make it to the church office before Sunday, December 27.

Final 2020 offerings for the Deacons Fund, Nyaka and His Eyes as well as year end gifts for the church may also be made by mail or dropping off at the church office.

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Poinsettia Display



Because Poinsettia's so beautifully enhance the sanctuary, a display of these seasonal flowers has become a tradition and is an integral part of UPC's Advent of the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. The Poinsettias are graciously sponsored by friends and members of UPC.

Thank You Poinsettia Sponsors

Fadi & Aline Haddad

In Loving Memory of May Hamati

In Loving memory of Fuad Haddad

Souheil & Alejandra Haddad

In Loving Memory of Reverend David Bremer

In Loving Memory of Reverend Sarah Cochran

In Loving Memory of Peggy Watson

In Loving Memory of Phyllis Watt

Bob & Julie Hammel

In Loving Memory of Bill Schofield

In Loving Memory of Peggy Watson

Michelle Heitink – In Loving Memory of Dennis Schuman

Andy Hill

Lou Malcomb

Allen Pease

In Loving Memory of Raymond & Rose Klucznik

In Loving Memory of Robert E. Pease In Loving memory of Larry Trowbridge

2020 Hat & Mitten Tree extended . . .

. . . a long-time tradition at UPC is in the Narthex. Decorating the tree has been extended to Sunday, December 13. All are invited to decorate it with donated winter gear. Festoon it with hats, mittens, gloves, earmuffs, head and neck scarves in *child and teen sizes*. The *decorations* will be taken to MCUM for Monroe County children and teens. Stephanie Worden has volunteered to shop for you. Simply bring a check to the church office and she'll shop for you.

