

# Reaching UP

United Presbyterian  
Church

1701 E. Second Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401

812 -332-1850

[upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:upcbloomington@gmail.com)

<http://upcbloomington.org>

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## ENGAGEMENT!

Chris Pearson of Jacksonville, Alabama and Tracey Seguin of Knoxville, Tennessee are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Elizabeth Noelle Pearson, PA-C to Fuad Christopher Haddad, MD, the son of Dr. Fadi and Dr. Aline Haddad of Bloomington.

The couple are graduates of Emory University. Fuad received his MD from the Indiana University School of Medicine at Indianapolis and Elizabeth received her Physician Assistant Certification from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Fuad is currently a general surgery resident at Charleston Area Medical Center in West Virginia and Elizabeth is a Physician Assistant at the Neurology/Headache Clinic in Charleston. Fuad and Elizabeth met in chemistry class while undergrads at Emory.



Many of us at United Presbyterian watched Fuad grow up and celebrated many of his milestones including graduation from Bloomington High School North, Emory University and IU Med School as well as cheered him on as he sang and performed in such productions as the musical “The Fantasticks” at BNSN. We also greatly appreciated his singing and playing piano in the UPC sanctuary.

Above we see the ring moments after it was slipped on Elizabeth's finger. At right Fuad plays as his cousin Sami Haddad sings in the UPC Sanctuary during their high school years, either 2010 or 2011

It's wonderful to be able to share in this joyful announcement.



## FROM THE PASTOR



Dear UPC and Friends,

Greetings. As your minister I am so excited to have many of you back in the sanctuary. I would like to thank the entire United Presbyterian faith community for your flexibility throughout the pandemic. It has been a learning experience for all of us.

Well now that we are getting back to some *new* normalcy...it's time for us to embark on a new sermon series. The series is called *The Acts of the Apostles* (I borrowed the title). It will begin Sunday, May 9 and go through the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. We'll follow the early church as they experience events such as the

Ascension and Pentecost. We'll follow the Apostles Peter and John on their early adventures. We'll witness the beginning of the Deacons and the conversion of Saul. And we'll accompany the Apostle Paul on some of his missionary journeys and set sail with him to Rome.

It will be an adventure that you'll not want to miss. So, make plans to spend time with your church family.

Whether in person or on YouTube.

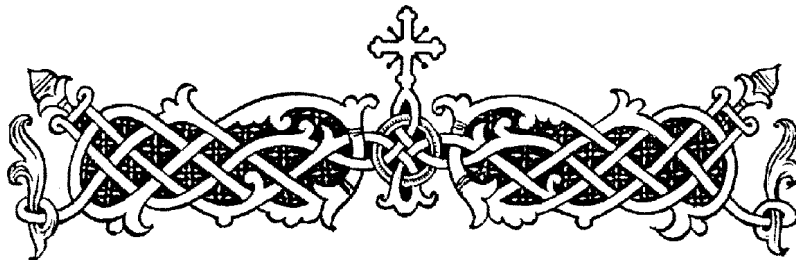
May you stay healthy and safe.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor John

May, 2021

Bloomington



### MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The 10 a.m. Sunday Worship is live in the Sanctuary for those who have completed the vaccination process and also livestreamed at UPC Bloomington — YouTube.

May 2 — Communion Sunday. Liturgist: Deacon Lou Malcomb; *Feed My Sheep* presented by The Reverend John Napoli. Music performed by Benjamin Watkins on organ and piano. Holy Communion served by Reverend Napoli.



May 9 — Mother's Day. Liturgist: Elder Alejandra Haddad; *The Ascension of the Lord* (the first segment of a 23 sermon series titled *The Acts of the Apostles*) presented by Reverend John Napoli. Music performed by Benjamin Watkins on organ and piano.

May 16 — Liturgist: Jim Haverstock; *The Calling of Mathias* (the second segment of a 23 sermon series titled *The Acts of the Apostles*) presented by Reverend John Napoli.

May 23 — Pentecost Sunday. Liturgist: Elder Andy Hill; *Pentecost* (the third segment of a 23 sermon series titled *The Acts of the Apostles*) presented by The Reverend John Napoli. Receiving of the annual PC(USA) Pentecost Offering. Music performed by Benjamin Watkins on organ and piano.

May 30 — Trinity Sunday. Liturgist: Elder Darian McBride; *Peter's Message* (the first segment of a 23 sermon series titled *The Acts of the Apostles*) Presented by The Reverend John Napoli. Music performed by Benjamin Watkins on organ and piano.

## 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)

### 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.

### Zoom Meetings

Contact the church at [upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:upcbloomington@gmail.com) to get signed up to receive email invites for Sunday worship, Tuesday Bible study, Thursday prayer meeting, and more!

### 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.

### Video and Sound Systems

If you are interested in learning how to operate the sound system or help in taping Sunday worship service please contact Don Root at [rootd@msn.com](mailto:rootd@msn.com).

### Treasurer Assistant

If you are interested in helping count and process donations and other treasurer duties, please contact Andy Hill at [andy@andyhill.us](mailto:andy@andyhill.us)

## May Birthdays and Anniversaries



May 9 Travis and Elfrida Bauer Anniversary  
May 14 Fuad Haddad  
May 15 Don and Anne Root Anniversary  
May 19 Sue Lorimer  
May 22 Miriam Michael



### MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

The good financial news in February was not repeated in March. March income was way down at \$4,810 and expenses were \$14,185, giving us a net income of negative \$9,375 for March. This reduces our year-to-date surplus to \$1,891, which can evaporate quickly with the lean summer months approaching. Please keep your giving up to date so we can continue to avoid dipping into our investment portfolio to cover operating expenses.

It's that time of year again, when we ask those who are able, to pay their per-capita, which is \$44 per member for this year.

Don Root



## UPC Scrip Program

\$1,350 was raised for UPC in 2020 and ***ALL WE DID WAS SHOP!!!***

It cost us ***NOTHING!***

Each of the more than 700 merchants involved returns a percentage to the church for EVERY scrip card used. If you use a \$20 UPC Scrip card in a store, you get \$20 worth of merchandise and UPC gets anywhere from 4 to 18% of that amount depending upon the retailer. It is that simple.

## Mother's Day!

*Dinner out for Mom?* Use UPC Scrip!

*Gifts for Mom?* Use UPC Scrip!

*New appliance for Mom?* Use UPC Scrip!

*Gift wrap & bows?* Use UPC Scrip!

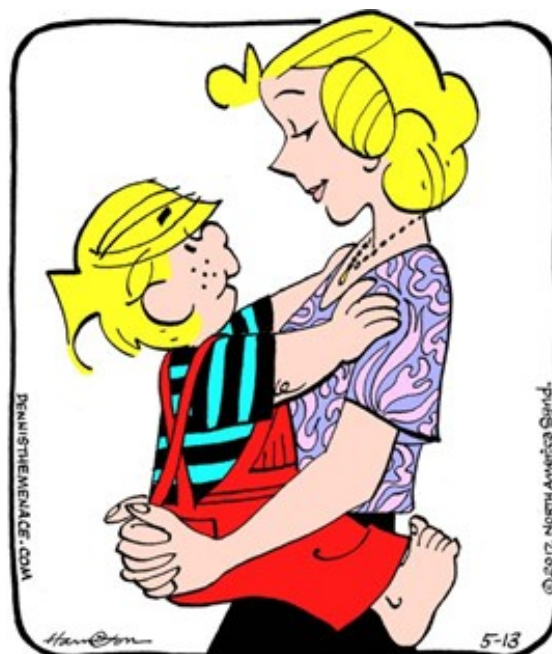
*Flowers for Mom?* Use UPC Scrip!

*Gas up the car to visit Mom?* Use UPC Scrip!

You can make all of the above happen with UPC Scrip!



"HOW COME YOU NEVER LET ME OFF WITH JUST A WARNING?"



"IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, MOM... MOTHER'S DAY WOULD BE JUST A REGULAR OL' DAY FOR YOU."

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# SPRING

## Youth Flower Sale Fundraiser



## Last Day to Order

Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> by Noon

(CERTAIN SUPPLIES WILL BECOME LIMITED DUE TO DEMAND)

## Pick-Up

Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

UPC parking lot – limited contact drive thru

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR UPC YOUTH

# Living with gratitude, hope and grace

April 15, 2021 by Ellie Johns-Kelley

As a parent of young children during the pandemic, feelings of inadequacy are common in both child-rearing and work. Regardless of the words of encouragement from supervisors, and family and friends, it is easy to sense that we are falling short. To note, I have been truly blessed with bosses who have reminded me to put my family first while navigating the strange days. They have affirmed me in my work. Yet, the sense of inferiority is persistent, particularly with being a mom. From education, socialization, discipline and spiritual development, how can we meet the imaginary marks in our minds?

Looking at this from the lens of spiritual formation for my children, I feel I am falling flat. The pandemic has required those of us with young children to play tandem roles with our work and childcare. Trying to do both well is hard work.

Even with school and daycare back in session, the days are shorter with no afterschool care. This means parents juggling school pickup, navigating homework and pleading with a first grader and toddler to play nicely as mommy or daddy finish up work that needs attending.

The idea of including any formal Christian Education beyond attending remote worship on Sunday and bedtime prayers with a few Sunday School songs has seemed unattainable.

We raise the question, will our children have faith? And will they learn enough that one day they can make the decision for themselves to accept or reject this faith we share? Will they know that nothing in life and death can separate them from the love of God?

## Faith is caught, not taught

As a pastor, I used to distribute to children and their families “Belonging to God, a First Catechism” and encourage them to go through a few questions each day during Lent. Two cycles of Lent and Easter have passed, and I have not done this with my own girls.

Twenty-three years ago, as a seminarian at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, I met Professor Emeritus, Bob Kelley. As the G. Albert Shoemaker Professor of

Bible and Archaeology, he would make Greek and the scriptures come alive for seminarians and high school kids alike. Dr. Kelley was full of enthusiasm, joy and genuine care. Young people fondly referred to him as Coach Kelley. Recently, I remembered an expression he used so often. Dr. Kelley would say, “Faith is caught, not taught.”

I find this incredibly reassuring as a parent. Many parents are experiencing the struggles I have expressed. Pastors and elders around share the concern that they want to live into the baptismal promises with children and youth, and it is harder in pandemic times; particularly as we still must wait for the vaccines to be approved for children. As congregations begin to reopen to vaccinated adults, we must figure out how to provide simple tools and if nothing else, encouragement that spiritual nurture is not limited to formal education but everyday interactions with our children.

## Gardening as spiritual practice

For me, it is as simple as stepping out into the garden with our two girls. Soil tilled. The garden is ready for them to plant seeds to grow vegetables for ourselves with extra to share with our community through local food pantries. While digging in the soil, weeding, and eventually picking ripe vegetables, we get to wonder aloud about God and God’s good creation. We get to talk about our near and distant neighbors with different experiences in the world. We talk about justice and injustice and how we may play a part in God’s reconciliation, both experiencing redemption and demonstrating it. We can sing songs of faith that retell the Biblical stories and raise questions for what that means for us today.

Dr. Kelley’s expression that faith is caught, not taught, comes alive in our dinner ritual. Without the prodding of her preacher momma (to consider inclusivity and that faith isn’t about making warm fuzzies with Jesus in the corner but about being in relationship to God, God’s good creation and being the body of Christ), our eldest edited the words to the Johnny Appleseed song.

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Presbyterian  
FOUNDATION



## Living with gratitude, hope and grace (continued from page ?)

Each evening before she begins, she declares the seed of the day. "Oh, the Lord is good to us and so we thank the Lord, for giving us the things we need, the sun and the rain and the apple (or watermelon, pumpkin, beet, pea or pumpkin) seed. The Lord is good to us."

The Lord is good to the world. Our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, journeys with us through joy, adventure, discomfort and distress. God does not leave us abandoned. Everyday engagement proclaims this faith to our children and helps them to live with gratitude, hope and grace.

*Ellie Johns-Kelley is the Ministry Relations Officer for the Northeast Region. She works to create a culture of generosity, offers seminars and workshops, develops gifts and fundraising plans for ministries and coaches finance, stewardship and endowment committees. She received a BS in Biology at Muskingum College and a Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.*



An Invitation  
from  
Bloomington Chamber Opera  
Benjamin Watkins  
Co-founder & Music Director

Please join us as we celebrate a successful  
and Covid-safe 2020-21 season!

# SONGS OF SPRING

Gala Concert & Season Announcement Party

Sunday, May 2nd | 3:00 PM  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!  
*Hosted and streamed LIVE!*

Join BCO for our very first gala concert: Songs of Spring - an afternoon of springtime music performed by the talented musicians in our midst. We'll take a look at where we've been this season, and where we're going together in the next!

Please consider becoming a Gala Sponsor and support BCO's dedication to bringing a fresh perspective to opera through innovative and approachable productions.

[insert *Reserve Your Free Ticket!* link here]

[insert *Yes! I Will Donate Today* link here]

## Kiwanis DRIVE-THRU Pancake Breakfast Returns to UPC!

As difficult pandemic times continue, based upon the success of the unique 2020 Kiwanis No-Contact, Social Distancing, DRIVE-THRU Pancake Breakfast at UPC, Kiwanis Club of Bloomington has announced:

### **2021 Kiwanis No-Contact, Social Distancing, DRIVE-THRU Pancake Breakfast!**

The event raises funds for the club and its well-known youth outreach programs. As in 2020, the Kiwanis Board determined that not doing the fundraiser in 2021 would be a staggering blow. In keeping with the Kiwanis tradition of mentoring youth the membership unanimously chose to donate 50% of proceeds to the Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools' Keith Klein Memorial Fund.



**Saturday, May 22 – 8 to 11 a.m. Driveways and parking lot of UPC**

Keith Klein, member of the Monroe County Community Schools Corporation's Board of Directors, was an active supporter of Kiwanis Club of Bloomington, especially its yearly fundraising pancake breakfast. He attended almost every Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast the past 16 years, including driving through last year's.

Kiwanis Club of Bloomington has partnered with FMCCS to present the 2021 Kiwanis No-Contact, Social Distancing, DRIVE-THRU Pancake Breakfast. At the FMCCS website, one can find this post:

To honor Keith's legacy a memorial fund has been created with the Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools. The fund will support journalism and broadcasting programs within the MCCSC. Keith especially loved the Batchelor TV program; he believed it empowered young students to learn video, editing, and writing skills to tell a story.

According to FMCCS Executive Director Cyrilla Helm, the proceeds will be placed in this exact fund.

Two breakfast will be offered at \$8 each—one with sausage and one without and the first 50 children 12 and under can have their parents stop at the Kid's Drive-Thru Station for a free Goodie Bag. Community Partners supporting Kiwanis and the FMCCS in implementing the event are WGCL AM & FM, Klein's on-air home at the time of his passing, Ivy Tech Community College, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Drs. Fadi & Aline Haddad, Drs. Souheil & Alejandra Haddad, United Presbyterian Church and Indiana Army National Guard 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery whose soldiers will assist Kiwanis Club members with preparing and serving at the event. WFIU-TV will assist with the Kid's Drive-Thru Station which will be staffed by 2021 Mrs. Indiana Justus Kelly and 2021 Miss Indiana Princess of America Geneva Mazhundu..

The Kiwanis Board of Directors reviewed recommendations from the Monroe County Health Department as well as consulted with the Monroe County Sheriff. After careful consideration of distancing, ease of service and budget, Kiwanis prepared an implementation plan with the approval of the UPC Session. Kiwanis Club of Bloomington and UPC will actively monitor for any possible escalating health concerns and, if necessary, adjust procedures or postpone the event.

According to the Board of Directors, the membership of Kiwanis Club of Bloomington sincerely appreciated the support of the members of UPC last year, especially the large number who did the drive-thru. With gratitude, they realize UPC was an integral part of last year's huge success. Kiwanis looks forward to working with UPC again this year. Last year at UPC →

