

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian
Church

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Merry Christmas from UPC!

Charlie Brown: Isn't there anyone, who knows what Christmas is all about?!

Linus: Sure Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about. Lights please?

And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them! And they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all my people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ, the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, and good will toward men."

That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.



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		



OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

October was a comeback month after the low September numbers. October income was \$16,583 and expenses were \$11,611, giving us a net income of \$4,972 for the month of October, and negative \$4,165 for the year to date. With good months in November and December, we could end the year without a deficit.

Don Root

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

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 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.

Treasurer Assistant

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



The Rev'd. Susan C. McGhee, Executive Presbyter

Thanksgiving Day — November 25, 2021

Thirty years ago or so, on the evening before Thanksgiving, I worshipped at a United Methodist Church where my friend, K Almond, was the pastor. When it came time for the sermon, K stood up, looked at the congregation, and said, "We can choose thanksgiving. And it will change us."

I cannot, for the life of me, remember anything she said after her opening words that evening. But neither can I forget her opening words that evening. Not for the life of me.

We can choose thanksgiving. And it will change us.

Sometimes it's easy to choose thanksgiving: the sight of autumn hillsides against October's bright blue sky, the sound of a baby's first laugh or the robin's first song, the warm feel of Grandma's quilt on a chilly November night, the aroma and flavor of bread fresh from the oven. Sometimes it's easy to choose thanksgiving, when our senses come alive and we revel in all good gifts around us. Sometimes choosing thanksgiving hardly feels like a choice at all; it is as natural as the next breath that fills our lungs with sweet, fresh air.

But sometimes, it feels impossible to choose thanksgiving. Sometimes the pain that envelops us or the fear that grips us or the anger that fills us numbs our senses to anything else. And yet sometimes, even in the midst of the pain or the fear or the anger, we start to notice something more: a sight or a sound or a touch or a smell or a taste, or maybe just a thought or a word or the flash of an image. Something small, just a seed.

Furrows be glad, though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.

Give of your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.*

Sometimes all it takes is a seed, and our gentle and courageous decision to nourish it. Thanksgiving takes root, and sprouts and grows and begins to grace us and nourish us and change us.

I don't know where you are as you read my words today. It may be that you are filled with thanksgiving. It may be that all you can do is to nourish gently the tiny seeds that you're beginning to notice.

Or it may be that you can find no reason for thanksgiving. If this is the case, I encourage you not to waste a moment in self-doubt. I encourage you to trust where you are and who you are in this moment. But I encourage you, too, to take heart, and to trust that God is at work, even if you cannot see it or feel it or taste it. The seed sown in the barren earth may stay hidden for a while.

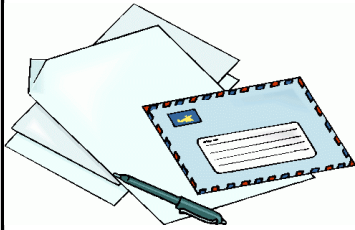
Furrows be glad, though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there...

Sometimes all it takes is a seed. And even when we cannot nourish it, God does....

Sending much love and light your way!

Susan

*From the hymn, "People Look East," by Eleanor Farjeon, 1973



We Get Letters

Let us hear from you. Drop your letter off at the church during office hours
Or
Email it to: upcbloomington@gmail.com — Reaching UP on subject line.

Hello,

As a member of our community, IU Health is reaching out to you about our big move day on Sunday, Dec. 5.

Please help inform your congregations that traffic may increase in town as we move patients to the new IU Health Bloomington at 2651 E. Discovery Parkway from the legacy IU Health Bloomington Hospital on Second St.

We appreciate your assistance, and your grace as we complete this important step in opening our new hospital.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you, Samantha Kirby
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Compassionate. Highly Skilled. Personalized.
Visit iuhealth.org



"MR. WILSON TOLD ME WHAT HE WANTS FOR CHRISTMAS...A 'FOR SALE' SIGN IN OUR YARD."



"I HOPE YOUR ELVES AREN'T WASTING THEIR TIME MAKIN' SHIRTS AN' SOCKS!"