

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian
Church

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THE PATIENCE OF FAITH

The Transition of United Presbyterian Church

Presented July 24, 2022 by Elder Don Root

We were all saddened two months ago when we first heard that Pastor John was leaving. It doesn't seem that long ago that we breathed a sigh of relief when we issued the call that brought him here and now here we go again.

The process of finding and bringing in a new pastor is tedious and frustrating at times, but it is more important to get it right than to get done quickly. I've been with a few different churches in all the places I've lived and I could tell you a couple of horror stories about churches that didn't get it right. But I'll spare you the details.

We've been in this position before and, in fact, our church has been in much worse positions in its long history. Bob Hammel and I wrote up the history of the church for our 175th anniversary in 2008. If you haven't read it, I'd suggest you dig up a copy of the 175th booklet and read it.

In 1951, our church building, which was down town on Ninth Street, was totally destroyed by fire. The congregation left the ashes behind, found a new plot of land on East Second Street, and built this church. By the late 1960's the congregation had grown so large that they had to add on the section in back which now the Narthex, the office and



classrooms. A few short years later in the mid 1970's, the pastor left the denomination, took about two thirds of the membership with him, went down the street and started his own non-denominational church, the ECC. That would be enough to discourage anyone, but a core group of the remaining members were determined that this church would survive and they did what had to be done to make it happen. I believe the only ones left here from that group are Bob and Julie Hammel. Bob and Julie, I don't know if you've thought about it or not, but with the passing of the Rhoades, you are now the patriarch and matriarch of our church. We look to you for the wisdom of the ages and for a dose of the spirit of that group that kept the church going in the years following that devastating split.

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Good News!

Dr. Sarah Moon Stamey has shared some good news with the UPC family! She gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on July 11.

His name is Bede Moon Stamey. At birth he weighed 10 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 23.5 inches.

He is named after St. Bede, who was a medieval historian and Benedictine monk. He was delivered by Dr. Labban, a friend of Drs. Fadi and Souheil Haddad.

We are overjoyed at our new addition, especially big sister Margaret :)

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

Treasurer Assistant

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

UPC n Zoom

Tuesday evening Bible Study and Thursday evening prayer meeting, now on hiatus, are conducted via Zoom. When these programs return in the Fall, if you're not already signed up to receive an email with the link to the Zoom meeting, simply email upcbloomington@gmail.com and request inclusion.

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.

Sunday Service on YouTube

UPC YouTube Channel link is: [UPC Bloomington - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBloomington-YouTube). An email is sent out each Thursday with the YouTube link and Sunday's Bulletin attached. If you're not on the list and would like to be, email upcbloomington@gmail.com and request inclusion.

Lights! Camera! Action!
Movies with Meaning!

→ RESCHEDULE ←

Last month we couldn't screen our last film.

Catch it this month . . .

Wednesday, August 10! 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

FREE!

Hosted by Allen Pease

A Man Called Peter

A 1955 American drama, it stars Richard Todd. The movie is based on the life of preacher Peter Marshall, who served as Chaplain of the United States Senate and pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C., before his early death. It's adapted from the 1951 biography written by his widow, Catherine Marshall. The film was a box-office hit and it was nominated for an Oscar. This was the final feature film of the actress Jean Peters.

Movies with Meaning benefits The Worship Team's Guest Artist Program. These movies were each box office smash hits and the Worship Team finds each meaningful to our journey.

Admission is free. A donation jar for the Guest Artist Program will be placed in Fellowship Hall.

Fresh popped popcorn and iced tea are free!

If you'd like to provide a movie themed snack, please sign up with Allen.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries



Aug 1 Nabil Turk

Aug 7 Lou Malcomb

Aug 15 Darian McBride

Aug 16 Vera Heitink

Aug 19 Rachael Caroline Worden

Aug 20 Souheil Haddad

Aug 20 Nichole Heitink

Aug 25 Rev. John Napoli



JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

You were very generous with your contributions in June. We took in \$15,026. Unfortunately, a few extra bills arrived in June making our expenses \$16,085 for the month. In spite of this, we are still \$579 to the good for the year-to-date. Your continuing support is always appreciated.

Don Root



Presbyterian Mission
**Mission Engagement
& Support**

Thank You!

July 15, 2022

United Presbyterian Church
Attn: Clerk of Session
1701 E. 2nd St.
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Clerk of Session:

Grace and peace to you through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the summer. I hope you and the leadership of your congregation can take time to catch your breath, and give the choir, the committees, and the session a well-deserved break. On our liturgical calendars this is 'ordinary time'. We give thanks for your faithful and extraordinary support of Presbyterian mission.

On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, please convey our appreciation to your mission committee, pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support. On June 6, 2022, we received \$180.00 for OG999999 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

The support of your congregation makes a difference in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ locally, nationally and around the world. Thank you, once again, for your witness to the Great Commission and your support of Presbyterian Mission. You are a valued partner.

Please let me know how I can assist you in your mission efforts. Feel free to call, write or email with any questions, ideas, or suggestions that you may have. I'm here to walk alongside you in our shared mission.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Chris Roseland
Mission Engagement Advisor
Office of Mission Engagement and Support
(502) 439-4930
chris.roseland@pcusa.org



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.

Fifth Sunday a Success

The Worship Team's first Fifth Sunday Celebration was a wonderful success. Attendance was excellent, guest speaker Jim Haverstock was inspiring, the pitch-in lunch was tops and Julian Garvue's music for the service was awesome and his concert closing out our Fifth Sunday Celebration was amazing! Thanks to those who invited and hosted guests.



Jim Haverstock began Fifth Sunday with an inspiring homily. The center photo above shows how good the attendance was and the right photo shows how good the buffet was.



The ladies at the pink table had a great time sharing as did the guys at the blue table and an excellent time of fellowship for all is illustrated.



Julian shared his gift of music with us performing wonderful piano during the Fifth Sunday worship service and at the Fifth Sunday concert.

Attendee reports concurred that everyone enjoyed Fifth Sunday.



The clean up crew did

an excellent job of putting everything back in order with many more volunteering to help.

Next Fifth Sunday Celebration is October 30 and Benjamin is planning a great concert and the Worship Team a great service and pitch-in.



'Gimme 5(00)

Food Drive

The shelves are bare at
Monroe County United Ministries

United Presbyterian has committed to collecting 500 cans of
Spaghetti's!



Any Size! Any Variety!
Bring one or more cans every week
To the Deacon's Red Wagon
at Fellowship Hall entrance.

Sunday, August 7
To
Sunday, September 28

MCUM finished up their Each One, Feed One food drive at the end of June, adding about 3,500 pounds of nonperishable food items to the food pantry. Alarmingly, those items are entirely gone already. In fact, last month, they served over 400 families in the food pantry - that is **more than double** MCUM's previous record.

While financial donations are always great, grocery stores are not currently allowing MCUM to make bulk orders to supplement our food pantry as they used to — mostly because of supply chain issues. Therefore, MCUM has developed this unique food collection project. UPC is joining with other congregations, civic clubs, fraternal groups and businesses to each select one item and pledge to collect 500 in just over a month. MCUM believes that this will allow them to fill the empty shelves in the pantry.



**Carlson-Palmer
Productions
Presents**

Camelot

**Paint Your
Wagon**

**Lerner
&**

**My Fair
Lady**

Loewe

Brigadoon

**Benefiting
Fairview
Elementary
School
Arts &
Literacy
Programs**

&

**LOCKED
AWAY**

Operatic Scenes Behind Bars

**Fairview United
Methodist Church,
Bloomington**

**Sunday,
Aug. 28
2 p.m.**

Admission is FREE!

Donations will be accepted for the Fairview Elementary School Arts & Literacy Programs

THE PATIENCE OF FAITH (Continued from page 1)

Given our history, I can't help but believe that God wants this church to survive. I, for one, would like to see us not only survive, but to thrive. I see three elements that are necessary for that to happen.

Faith, patience, and some hard work.

If we want to know what true faith and patience look like, we have only to look at our scripture stories about Abraham. Abraham answered the voice of God and left his home land to travel many miles to a strange land he had never seen. When he arrived, there was no glorious city. That would come later. They lived in tents out in the open. How about the promise of descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky?



That seemed out of reach for a couple well past child bearing age. But with God, all things are possible. You just have to have patience. Abraham lived long enough to see his son Isaac marry Rebekah, a union which would be the beginning of the fulfillment of the promise of many descendants. Abraham would not see the many descendants or the ultimate building of the Promised Land. That would come later.

Sometimes what we sow is reaped by later generations. Just as previous generations have kept this church going, we need to do the same, not only for ourselves, but for those to come and those we currently serve. Outside groups use our building every week. These are service clubs and important groups that support people with addictions.

Faith, patience, and work. Ah work, that four letter word. There's much work ahead for us, but there never seems to be enough workers. Yes, we need a new pastor, but, even more important, we need more members. We have people in key positions that are in their 70's and 80's, with no one in line to replace them. To put that in sports language that most of you would understand, we have a very shallow bench.

Yes, we need a new pastor, but even more, we need more members if this church is to not just survive, but to thrive. We hope to bring in a new pastor that can inspire growth, but we have to do our part too. Allen, Benjamin and the Worship Team worked feverishly to put together a special 5th Sunday music program for July 31. What better time to invite someone to church and thanks to those who did just that.

This is a good time to update you on our search for an interim pastor. By the way, the official term is now "Transitional Pastor." We're in transition between the old installed pastor and the yet to be identified new installed pastor. In order to expedite the search, the Session has appointed themselves as the search team for a transitional pastor. To be clear, when the time comes to form the pastor nominating committee to search for our installed pastor, that team will be elected by you, the congregation. Presbytery is actively guiding us through the entire process, so we're not alone in this.

Since Sessions cannot meet officially without a moderator, Presbytery has assigned Reverend Kelley Jepsen, Transitional Associate Minister at First Presbyterian, to serve as our Session moderator until we can bring in a Transitional Minister. She moderated our July Session meeting. We found her to be knowledgeable and easy to work with.

The next step in the process is for Presbytery to assign us a liaison from the Committee on Ministry to guide us through the Transitional Minister search process. We were informed July 24th that that person is Janet Lowe. There will be some training, some paperwork, and we'll take it from there.

Lots of steps in the process, but all necessary to maximize our chances for good results. Last time around, it took us five months to bring in Mitch Coggin as our interim. I'm hoping we can shave a month or two off of the process this time to give Allen and the Worship Team some relief from the burden of having to find pulpit supply every week, but there are no guarantees.

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THE PATIENCE OF FAITH (Continued from page 8)

I'm wrapping up by sharing a poem. This is one that our daughter Sharon posted on Facebook. It resonated with me because it brought back some fond memories from my early childhood. Those of you from my generation may relate to it too. I grew up on a farm on the east coast. There were two houses on the property, ours and my grandparents. Some mornings I would walk down the path to my grandparents' house while they were having breakfast, 5 or 6 years old at the time. Breakfast in those days included coffee,

... some things never change, but how it was served was a bit different. There were no Kerrig Cups, no Starbucks, it was a percolator on the stove. And the big coffee mugs and insulated tumblers that we drink from today didn't exist. It was the old standard size cup with a saucer and it would be refilled two or three times. Inevitably, some of the coffee would spill over onto the saucer. It was not uncommon then to pick up the saucer and drink the remaining coffee from the saucer. Apparently, others remembered it too and one man even wrote a poem about it with a little inspiration from the 23rd Psalm sprinkled in.



Drinking from my Saucer

by John Paul Moore

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I don't have a lot of riches and sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.

So, God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

Very inspirational, I thought. Lots of symbolism. I can also relate to the reference to tough row to hoe. Growing up on a farm, I can remember hoeing dirt around the plants, one at a time and looking off and seeing ten more acres to go. Not my favorite chore.

I also remember that sometimes my grandmother would put a few drops of coffee in the bottom of a cup and fill it the rest of the way with milk and that would be my cup of coffee. To this day, I whiten my coffee with milk. Enough about my childhood. It's time to go to prayer.

Editor's Note: Elder Root recommends reading these scriptures: Genesis 15: 1-6 and Hebrews 11:8-16

Juneteenth at United Presbyterian

With a desire to become more educated regarding Juneteenth, the Worship Team invited Elizabeth Mitchell to speak at UPC on Sunday, June 19 with a fellowship hour immediately afterward. Mrs. Mitchell is a longtime resident of Bloomington and Monroe County. She's an accomplished author, actress, community activist and documentary film maker. Elizabeth is also a good friend to many members of UPC. We learned a great deal about celebrating Juneteenth.



President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation September 24, 1862. On January 1, 1863, 3.5 million slaves were emancipated. The slaves on Galveston Island in Texas did not learn they

were free for 2½ years. On June 19, 1865, 2,000 Union troops marched into Galveston and Union Major-General Gordon Granger read General Order No. 3 to the people of Galveston. The reason for the long delay is a combination of slave owners purposely keeping the news from the slaves and 19th Century communication options (or lack of options). A spontaneous celebration broke out to celebrate emancipation in Galveston and has been held there every year since.



The celebration slowly spread and by 2018 it had been made an official holiday by 47 states. African Americans mark it as a celebration of freedom and over the past 130 years, especially since it was made a national holiday by President Biden and Congress in 2021, the celebration has become embraced by more and

more Americans.



Elizabeth Mitchell's presentation was interesting and educational. To conclude, from the pulpit, she answered many, many questions from the floor. She was also very well received at Fellowship Hour.

