

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian
Church

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Inside this Edition	
2	Installation and Ordination
3	No Excuse Sunday
3	Hat and Mitten Tree Success!
4	Engaging Couple
4	How to Get Involved
5	Birthdays and Anniversaries
6	Betty Chipman Obituary
8	We Get Letters!
9	A Scott Joplin Opera
9	Comics

Spaghetti Dinner Brought in the Sauce!

December's Spaghetti Dinner was a great success in food, fun, fellowship and fundraising! Ticket sales, donations at the door and the silent auction brought in \$712 for the UPC Music program.



Between 45 and 50 kids and adults enjoyed great salad, garlic

bread, spaghetti and Fettuccini Alfredo prepared by Jo Barnett, Melanie Mathis-



McBride, Darian McBride and Benjamin Watkins. The Worship Team thanks all for the success.



(Continued on Page 2)

Spaghetti Dinner Brought in the Sauce! (continued from Page 1)

Enjoy these fun photos!



Be sure to thank Souheil Haddad for the picture taking.



Kicking Off 2023

Installation and Ordination of 2023 UPC Officers

On Sunday, January 22, as part of the morning worship service, UOC's 2023 officers will be ordained and installed. Officiating is POV Executive Presbyterian Rev. Susan McGhee.



Team leaders and committee heads, complete your reports for UPC's Annual Meeting in January. The best way to create and submit your 2023 Annual Report covering 2022, is to create it as a Word Document using 12 pt. Times New Roman. Once completed, email it as an attachment to: upcbloomington@gmail.com

It will go directly to Allen. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 5 immediately after the morning worship service. Food and fellowship will follow.

No Excuse Sunday

To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday, we're having a special "No Excuse Sunday."

Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in."

There'll be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard.

Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching T.V. late Saturday night.

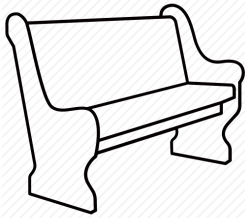
We'll have steel helmets for those who say "The roof would cave in if I ever came to church."

Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold and fans for those who say it is too hot.

Score cards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.

Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to church and cook dinner, too.

We will distribute "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those who feel that church is always asking for money.



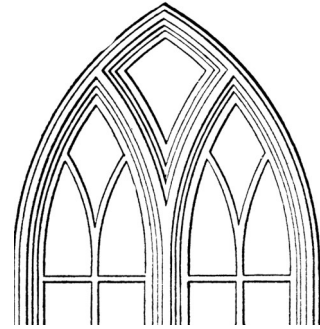
One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature.

Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.

The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them.

We will provide hearing aids for those who say they can't hear the preacher and earplugs for those who say the minister is too loud.

Anonymous — Submitted by Phillip Addison



Hat & Mitten Tree Exceptional this Year

UPC's annual Hat & Mitten Tree was placed in Fellowship Hall by the Worship Team. Friends and members were asked to decorate it with hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and ear muffs in child and teen sizes.

And decorate it they did! The 2022 UPC Hat & Mitten Tree was a huge success! Take a look at the photo taken just a few hours before Benjamin Watkins delivered the much needed items to Monroe County United Ministries.

Great job United Presbyterian!


Engaging Couple

Yasmina Haddad and Isaac Gutjahr have happily announced their engagement.

Both are graduates of Bloomington High School North where they met. Yasmina received her Bachelor and Master degrees from Vanderbilt University. Isaac earned his Bachelor degree at University of Southern California and his Masters degree at Indiana University/Bloomington.


Yasmina is the daughter of Souheil and Alejandra Haddad and Isaac is the son of Paul and Cathy Gutjahr, all of Bloomington.

The couple currently reside in Chicago, Illinois. They have chosen August 2024 for their wedding.



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Betty Thacker was a mother born in heaven, she returned to heaven on November 4th 2022. My brother, sister and I loved her dearly. As children we prayed for

God to protect our Mother, that we might keep her with us always. Near the end of her life, we prayed that God take her gently, freeing her from all pain and cares. Born September 15, 1929 in a two room house near Whitehall, Indiana with a roof that leaked, no indoor plumbing, no

electricity and no central heating, my Mom had a father she adored, Harry Stogsdill, a sister to protect, Naomi Lucas, and a loving moth-

Little Red on

The little red wagon is waiting to be filled with canned goods and hygiene products for Monroe County United Ministries. For

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.



January Birthdays and Anniversaries



Jan 3	Liz Root	Jan 19	Christabel Nyarko
Jan 5	John Swanson	Jan 23	Karen Like
Jan 11	Stephanie Haddad	Jan 25	Virginia McCartney
Jan 11	Jim Haverstock		



NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

November was another good month financially. Income for November was \$13,850 and expenses were \$5,489 giving us a net income of \$8,361 for November and \$25,175 for the year-to-date. Not paying a pastor reduces our expenses by about \$7,000 per month, so if we had a pastor in November, income would have been about \$1,000 over expenses. That is a good month. A good month in December will put us in a position to meet the high energy bills we expect this winter and the expenses of bringing in a new pastor in 2023.

Don Root

Betty Marie Thacker

September 15, 1929 – November 4, 2022

Naomi Louise Lucas

April 17, 1931 – November 8, 2022

Betty Thacker was a mother born in heaven, she returned to heaven on November 4th 2022. My brother, sister and I loved her dearly. As children we prayed for God to protect our Mother, that we might keep her with us always. Near the end of her life, we prayed that God take her gently, freeing her from all pain and cares. Born September 15, 1929 in a two room house near Whitehall, Indiana with a roof that leaked, no indoor plumbing, no electricity and no central heating, my Mom had a father she adored, Harry Stogsdill, a sister to protect, Naomi Lucas, and a loving mother, Eva Stogsdill. She first attended Vernal School, a one room schoolhouse in Monroe County, where she loved to skate at recess on the frozen creek behind the school. At 14 she was excited to attend and later graduate from Ellettsville High School, which allowed her to meet new people and learn new things. She loved learning. Even in later life when taught how to use a computer, her eyes would sparkle with the endless possibilities at her fingertips. She graduated from high school in 1947 and immediately took a job on line 8 at RCA. She later became a secretary in the factory's office where she could use her amazing typing and dictation skills. In November of 1947 she married Willis Thacker. In February 1952 she gave birth to a daughter, Judy Thacker Morran (Keith) of Bloomington who 29 and 33 years later gifted Betty with two cherished grandchildren, Levi Thacker Morran (Emily) of Atlanta and Gabriel Thacker Morran (Samantha) of Bloomington, who years later gave Betty, Magdalene Morran, Daisy Delph-Morran and Beau Morran, her beloved great-grandchildren. In March 1953, she had another daughter Julie Thacker Romas (Lynn) who lives in Brazil, Indiana. In October 1955 Betty gave birth to James Ross Thacker (Kate Ward) who lives in St. Louis, Missouri and Homer, Alaska. Mom's greatest love in life was being with her family, loving them, learning with them, and nurturing them. Her later jobs were often selected to help her children. She worked at the Neumode Gift shop, where her three children modeled in the style shows given by the store in the 1950's-60's, so Betty could buy their clothes half price. Next, she worked at Bloomington National Bank as a teller where she always balanced her money totals every day. Finally, she took several jobs at Indiana University working for the Bursar's office as a teller for the Halls of Residence, monetary clerk for Sponsored Students, and then as Administrative Accounts Clerk for the Indiana University Overseas Study Program. By working at Indiana University, her children could receive half tuition and afford college. Thus, Betty fulfilled her life-long dream of sending her children to college.



In 1988 Willis Thacker died and Betty remarried Wayne Chipman of Bloomington, IN in 1996 and shared her love with more: his daughters Sherry Chipman Schinbeckler (Woody) Plymouth IN, and Jill Chipman Sparks (Terry) of Bloomington, IN and their children Jill Ann Meador of Plymouth IN, Kelly Schinbeckler of Bremen, IN, Bethany Ward (Grant) of Bloomington, Jodi Neal (Scot) of Bloomington, IN and Kimberlin Crook (JD) of Chapel, FL with 18 great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren. Wayne also brought with him the loving congregation of the United Presbyterian Church which Mom embraced, while maintaining her life-long membership to the Whitehall Wesleyan Church. The United Presbyterian Church blessed her with many cards and flowers as well the help of church member, Dr. Souheil Haddad, who extended many kindnesses and expertise to Mom during her last year.

Our family would also like to extend a special note of appreciation and thanks to the incredible staff at Stonecroft Health Campus for their love and care of Mom and for all the many extras they extended to her daily. Also, deep gratitude to Drs. Strobel, Gettelfinger, Weidenbener, Villejo, Ludlow, Lafollette and his nurse Kathy who were essential to her wellbeing and soul. Sincere thanks and appreciation to Elara Hospice staff for guidance, care, and support.

Mom spent her life sharing kindness with the world. She made peoples' lives better and enjoyed giving to others. She loved distributing cookies and kringles at Christmas. Besides her family her other passion was driving. She learned to drive when she was 6 on her father's lap on a model A Ford and drove well until she was 92. She could identify all makes and models of cars and frequently knew what was wrong with a car that needed repairs. She even drove her mother and sister home from Chicago as a teen when her father was reassigned to Crane from Navy Pier following WWII. She taught us to put others first, to ask questions and to believe that if others could do it, we could, too. There's a hole in our hearts and lives but Betty Thacker is free. Fly, Mom!

A Celebration of Life honoring both Betty Thacker and her precious sister, Naomi Lucas was held in the sanctuary of Bloomington's historic United Presbyterian Church, the service was officiated by Elder Alejandra Haddad with over 50 in attendance. The UPC Deacons provided refreshments at a reception where all were able to catch up as well as to share warm memories and happy stories about Betty and Naomi.

Born April 17, 1931 Naomi Lucas was our cherished aunt who followed her sister Betty Thacker in death November 8, 2022. Daughter of Harry and Eva Stogsdill of Whitehall IN, she and Betty Thacker, her older sister, loved and supported each other for 91 years. Naomi was married to John William "Bill" Lucas of Bloomington IN until Bill passed away in 1985. She worked on the line for Sarkes Tarzian and Cook Incorporated. She graduated from Ellettsville High School with the class of 1949. She loved photography and captured treasured family moments with her lens. She also loved rock collecting attending many rock shows at the Monroe County fairgrounds. She and Bill also raised Tennessee Walkers. Primarily she loved her family. She was extremely close with her nieces, Judy Thacker Morran (Keith) of Bloomington IN, Julie Thacker Romas (Lynn) of Brazil IN and her nephew, James Ross Thacker (Kate Ward) of St. Louis MO and Homer AK. She also deeply loved her two great nephews, Levi Thacker Morran (Emily) of Atlanta GA and Gabriel Thacker Morran (Samantha) of Bloomington IN, and their children Magdalene Morran, Daisy Delph-Morran, and Beau Morran.

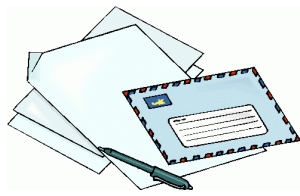


Again, our family is deeply indebted to the Stonecroft Health Campus staff for the love and care given to our aunt. Elara hospice also provided expertise, caring support and guidance in our aunt's last days for which we are so grateful. Two caring organizations that eased our loved ones lives.

Sisters Betty Thacker and Naomi Lucas were a great team on Earth, forming an everlasting bond of love. They were always together and will be for eternity.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.DayDeremiahFrye.com for the Thacker family.





We Get Letters

Send letters to: Reaching U.P.; UPC, 1701 E. Second Street, Bloomington, IN 47401 or email to upcbloomington@gmail.com

Dear Allen, Don, Benjamin, Alejandra, Souheil, Deacons and Parishoners,

God always knows what He's doing, doesn't he? In this process of losing my Mother — I met some wonderful people and witnessed their acts of love and expertise. You all have cared for my mother and, in extension, my aunt for quite awhile. But, this last year was exceptional. You sent cards, flowers and prayers. You visited my Mom when she so needed to see a friend, when she needed to know she was not alone.

She always talked to me about the Presbyterian Church and her friends there. She loved attending and being part of the congregation. Dr. Souheil Haddad — I will never forget you. Your visits, your care, your expertise, your kind regards were many times a lifeline for me and Mom.

Benjamin and Don, thank you for your caring presence at the meeting to discuss the Celebration of Life, and your work in its execution. Your music made Mom so happy.

Alejandra, thank you for all your work and for officiating the Celebration. I heard you speak once when I took Mom to church and you were so eloquent and compelling. I was so happy you were speaking for Mom.

Allen, thank you for your patience, thoughtfulness, kindness and hard work. Your words of wisdom eased my heart and soul.

I will never forget you all.

Most sincerely, Judy Morran, Jim Thacker, Julie Romas



United Presbyterian Church

ATTN: Allen Pease, secretary,

Please find the enclosed donation from members of the Bloomington Circle of Self Realization Fellowship. As you know, we benefit from UPC's generosity in providing space for us to meditate together as a group each Thursday evening. We are so thrilled to be able to do this again [post-COVID].

Please accept the enclosed donation as a symbol of our profound thanks for the lovely spiritual space provided by UPC.

Many blessings of the New Year.

With Deepest Gratitude,

Cecelia Buckley, Corresponding Secretary

Bloomington Circle—Self Realization Fellowship

[A donation of \$350 to UPC was included with this letter]



United Presbyterian Church,

We're happy to be allowed to return to UPC for our weekly meetings. We appreciate your kindness and concern.

Secretary, Thursday Campus Group

[A donation of \$280 to UPC was included with this note]



Presbyterian Mission
**Mission Engagement
& Support**

December 15, 2022

Thank You!

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

Dear Clerk of Session:

It is during the Advent season that we anticipate the hope of the world: Jesus Christ. For so many this is a challenging time of anxiety and uncertainty. But we are people of hope and so we remember the words of the prophet Isaiah: "a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (*Isaiah 9:6, NRSV*). May we live as people who know the peace and love of Jesus Christ as we look to a new year with hope.

As we prepare our hearts to receive the world's greatest gift, we remember, too, that we are called to give with joy and with generosity. As we prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child, we at the Presbyterian Mission Agency would like to pass along a simple message — ***thank you! We are grateful for your support!***

Please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support of Presbyterian Mission. Your contribution changes peoples' lives for the sake of the gospel all around the world. Please see the attached sheet listing your gifts we received in November.

On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, thank you again for your generous support and prayers. I hope you have a Blessed Advent and welcome Christ with joy and hope. May Christ's peace and love be with you always.

Yours in Christ,

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

On November 15, 2022, we received \$100.05 for PG999999 Peace & Global Witness Offering.

A Scott Joplin Opera

On Saturday, January 21st at 7:30, Bloomington Chamber Opera will present Scott Joplin's only surviving opera, *Treemonisha*, at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater downtown. The work is set in



rural Texarkana in 1884, and tells the story of Treemonisha, a young woman who belongs to a community of recently freed slaves. She is the first in her family to benefit from an education, and she is not afraid to speak her mind plainly. She finds herself, however, in conflict with the old traditions of superstition in her community—and in particular with Zodzetrick, one of the more outspoken superstitious conjurors. Since the conjurors survive by selling “bags of luck” and by marketing their magical powers, Treemonisha poses a threat to their very way of life. As the story unfolds, the young woman soon finds herself in mortal danger. In the end, reason and forgiveness prevail, and Treemonisha is chosen as her community's first leader, shattering deep-seated notions of age and gender.

The work will be performed with Joplin's original piano score, and a cast of seven vocalists. The music is a testament to Joplin's genius and versatility as a composer, and while it does incorporate ragtime and signature elements of the composer's popular works, *Treemonisha* is conceived at the highest level artistically. The work displays a cosmopolitan understanding of musical styles, some gorgeous melodic writing, ingenious harmonies, and—yes--some proper ragtime music.



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS,
BUT I MADE IT MYSELF."



"DO YOU THINK DENNIS WILL REMEMBER THE LAST
TIME I WAS HERE I GAVE HIM A SILVER DOLLAR?"