

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian
Church

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Timeless Relevance by Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Every so often, a notice pops up on my computer saying that it needs to be restarted in order to install an update. That seems to be a metaphor for where we are as a church. The pandemic shut things down and now, as we restart, we have a chance to update our programs and ministries. Many of you have told me about how busy your lives are. Rather than overburden us with more things to DO, I'd like us to take some time to rediscover the Sabbath as the sacred time God built into creation as our time to BE with God.

Alejandra Haddad called to my attention a wonderful documentary called "Sabbath." Journey Films, which produced the film says this about it: *Told as a collection of short stories, **SABBATH** explores the history of one of the world's most important spiritual practices and its timeless relevance for a stressed-out, modern world. From the Biblical accounts of Creation, to the 10 Commandments, to the Puritans landing in the New World, to the contemporary practice of a "tech-sabbath" - **SABBATH** ties together our collective history, our health practices, our response to God's invitation and the search for a more sustainable way of life.*

On October 8th, I'll be preaching about what scripture says about keeping the Sabbath. This, the fourth commandment, coming between and bridging the commandments to honor God and the ones to honor each other. It is, however, misunderstood and ignored by most Christian traditions. I hope we can gain a deeper understanding of what God intends in giving us this commandment.

The following Sunday, October 15th, we'll show the documentary as our worship and then discuss the film over a pitch-in lunch in the fellowship hall. If you are unable to attend worship on the 15th, you can view the documentary at journeyfilms.com. It's free to sign up and watch it at home.

I'm hoping this will help us as individuals to slow our lives down so that we have time to BE human and to BE WITH God; and also help us as a congregation to organize our ministry in such a way that we can BE the church without overburdening ourselves DOING church.

September/October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sep 2	Lamis & Nabil Turk Anniversary	Oct 1	KyungAe Lim
Sep 2	Agatha Nyarko	Oct 6	Bob Hammel
Sep 3	Don Root	Oct 10	Rula Hanania
Sep 9	Lamis Turk	Oct 17	Gerrit Jan Heitink
Sep 11	Glenda Nyarko	Oct 25	Pilsoo Kang
Sep 15	Alexander Isamu Like	Oct 26	John and Colleen Swanson Anniversary
Sep 17	Yasmina Haddad	Oct 31	Darian and Melanie Mathis McBride Anniversary
Sep 21	Fadi Haddad		
Sep 29	Vera and Gerrit Heitink		

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

August income was \$10,177 and expenses were \$15,256 giving us a net income of negative \$5,079 for August and negative \$8,512 for the year-to-date. We are chipping away at the surplus that was built up from not paying a pastor for 10 months. It is important that everyone keep up their giving. The path to long term financial stability for us is more members, so keep an eye out for people you can invite to church.

It is not too late to pay this year's per-capita, which is \$50.15 per member. If you're able to pay your own, that will be helpful.

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

Bible Study

Tuesday evening Bible Study is conducted in person and via Zoom at 6pm. 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.



We look forward to your letters/

Email them to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Dearest UPC Deacons, congregation and friends,
During a time like this we learn how much our family and friends really mean to us.

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

We want you to know how grateful we all are for your loving fellowship witnessed in her final year; and more importantly, your prayers.

Thank you for the wonderful reception for Ceci and all of the family. This opportunity of fellowship is so very appreciated.

Sincerely, Jim, Jeanne, Dan, Michelle, Robbie & Julie

[Editor's Note: The family lost their beloved mother Ceci on May 17]

Dear UPC,

Enclosed is a photo from my son Bede's first birthday on July 11.

He's wearing a more modern hanbok (since I come from a family of three sisters, we didn't have an heirloom hanbok for a boy), and he selected a paintbrush during his dol ceremony! I hope everyone is doing well.

Sarah Moon Stamey

Editor's Note:

Hanbok is a traditional Korean garment and is one of the most beautiful fashion styles in the world and has been beloved for over 2,000 years. Hanbok is worn during major holidays, birthday celebrations and weddings.

Dol is a Korean birthday **celebration** and one of the important facets of [Korean culture](#). Dol means it has been 365 days since the baby's birth.



On a Wing and a Prayer

Pizza & Popcorn night hosted by Jim Haverstock



The action-driven drama "On a Wing and a Prayer" starring Dennis Quaid, is based on a true story of the ordeal that the White family faced when [they entered the air in 2009](#). Their pilot suddenly died of a heart attack in the cockpit, leaving the severely inexperienced Doug to guide the plane to a safe landing. The movie follows Doug and his family as they work and pray to defy the odds stacked against their survival, with remote assistance from air traffic controllers and flight instructors. — review by Tea Bugbee

6 p.m. — Wednesday, October 11 — Fellowship Hall — Free



Scottish Heritage Sunday Announced

On October 22, we will be honoring our denomination's Scottish roots during worship. Here is what the Presbyterian Historical Society says about our Presbyterian beginnings in America:

"Presbyterianism in a wide sense is the system of church government by representative assemblies called presbyteries, in opposition to government by bishops (episcopal system), or by congregations (congregationalism). In its strict sense, Presbyterianism is the name given to one of the groups of ecclesiastical bodies that represent the features of Protestantism emphasized by French lawyer [John Calvin](#) (1509-1564), whose writings crystallized much of the Reformed thinking that came before him. The most important standards of orthodox Presbyterianism are the [Westminster Confession of Faith](#) and [Catechisms of 1647](#). The chief distinctive features set forth in the Westminster declarations of belief are Presbyterian church government, Calvinistic theology, and the absence of prescribed forms of worship. Presbyterians trace their history to the 16th century and the [Protestant Reformation](#).



Presbyterians were among the earliest Reformed immigrants to America. They settled up and down the East Coast, and began to push westward into the American wilderness, founding congregations as early as the 1630s. In 1706, seven Presbyterian ministers formed the first Presbyterian presbytery in the New World. The clergy assumed the freedom to organize and the right to worship, preach, teach, and administer the sacraments. Growing population and immigration prompted the presbytery to organize a synod in 1717, with four constituent presbyteries.

The church began to develop its own indigenous leadership and educational, mission, and charitable institutions, as well as to experience its first internal conflicts. Presbyterians were only one of the reformed denominations that dominated American colonial life at the time of the Revolutionary War. Presbyterians participated in the writing of state and national constitutions. Reformed views of God's sovereignty and of human sinfulness moved the new nation toward checks and balances and separation of powers. Independence forced adjustment in church as well as government structures. In 1788, the synod met in Philadelphia to form the [General Assem-](#)

[bly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America \(PCUSA\)](#). It adopted a constitution that included a form of government, a directory of worship, and subscription to the Westminster Confession and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. In 1789, the General Assembly held its first meeting in Philadelphia. In the early years of the 1800s, the church carried on revivals and organized congregations, presbyteries, and synods wherever they went, emphasizing the connectional nature of the church. Presbyterians helped as well to shape voluntary societies to encourage educational, missionary, evangelical, and reforming work. As the church began to realize that these func-



**PLEASE JOIN US TO SHARE A MOVIE, FUN,
FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP!**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH AT 6:00PM

***DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE CONCESSIONS PRIOR TO
SEATING FOR THE MOVIE**

DOGS, WALKING TACOS, POPCORN AND CANDY





Youth in Action (everyone is invited to join)

If you are interested in volunteering or getting involved with UPC youth contact Melanie Mathis-McBride (susieq_msm@yahoo.com).



Sunday, October 1st Craft Day

Pre-school classroom - all ages welcome

Wednesday, October 25th Movie

Fellowship Hall - **Hocus Pocus 2** - 6:00pm

Sunday, Fun day at the Farm

TBA Sunday afternoon in October - Mathis Farm,
Nashville, Indiana

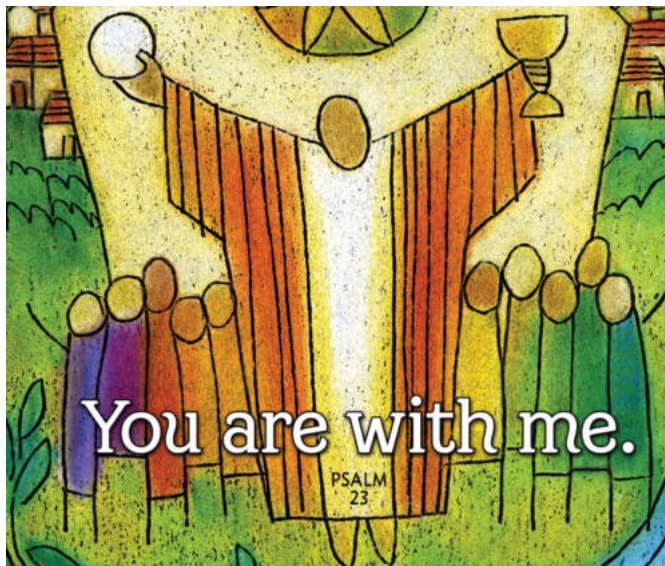


World Communion Sunday



United Presbyterian Church
10 a.m. — October 1
Prepared by the Deacons
Officiated by Reverend Cheryl Montgomery
Served by the Elders
Special Music by the
UPC Quartet directed by Benjamin Watkins

UPC will receive the annual PC(USA)
Peace and Global Witness Offering



As a community of faith, we receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, and as we do, we extend Christ's peace throughout our community and world even in these uncertain times. Twenty-five percent of the gifts we receive will stay right here in our church to work for peace and reconciliation. Another 25% will support the peacemaking efforts in our mid council, and 50% will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for its ministries of peacemaking and global witness all around the world.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Dine & DONATE

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m c u m

VISIT CULVER'S BLOOMINGTON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
5PM-8PM

TO SUPPORT MONROE COUNTY
UNITED MINISTRIES

PURCHASES HELP END GENERATIONAL POVERTY



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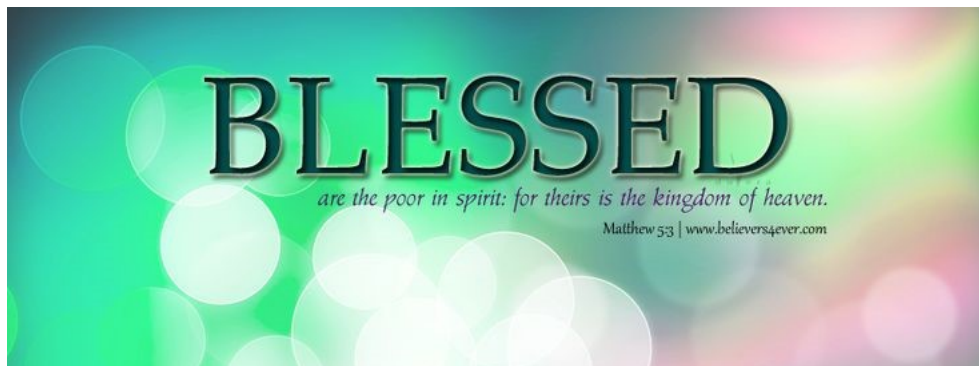
"TELLING GHOST STORIES THROUGH OPERA"

This Halloween, Tuesday October 31st at 7:30 UPC Music Director Benjamin Watkins will lead a performance of Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Medium* with Bloomington Chamber Opera at the Waldron Arts Center's Firebay Theater.

The compact two-act opera revolves around Baba, “dba” Madame Flora, an alcoholic clairvoyant, and her fraudulent business operation as a medium who purports to be able to communicate with the dead. Her daughter, Monica, and an adopted mute boy named Toby help run the séances. Because of Madame Flora’s dysfunctional alcoholism, it falls to Monica to attend to household matters and to look after Toby. One night a séance goes horribly awry, sending Madame Flora into self-destruction, intoxicated paranoia, and worse...

Stage director Alice Lind will create a truly unique Halloween experience with the audience placed in close proximity to the singers. The sardonic attitude of the protagonist and the dissonant musical language of the work create an eerie backdrop for moments of wistful poignancy and radiant beauty.

Tickets will be available through BloomingtonChamberOpera.org



Latest UPC Quartet News.

Conner Goes Big Time!

Our own Conner McWhirter has been signed to a contract by the Sarasota Opera! He'll be performing in a beautiful opera house in beautiful, sunny Sarasota. His contract runs from January 9 to March 29. Conner will be performing in productions of Carmen, Lucia di Lammermour and Luisa Miller. Congratulations Conner! We look forward to seeing you again in April!

Don't Miss This Recital!

Even more good news for Conner and for us! The *Conner McWhirter Recital for Performance Diploma* will be at 8:00 p.m., Monday, October 2 in Auer Hall of Simon Music Center, 200 S. Eagleson Avenue. The event is free and open to all. Don't miss it!



Romeo & Juliet!

Three of our wonderful singers have been cast in *Romeo & Juliet*. The opera is part of this year's IU MAC Opera and Ballet season. Congrats all around! We'll have details in the November issue of Reaching UP.

UPC Parking Permits

Stephanie and Allen have completed the issuance of parking permits for the UPC parking lot covering the 2023-24 academic year.



A limited number of Permits are issued to students and neighbors who request them as well as to friends and relatives of

UPC members.

Members of UPC do not need permits.

Grateful parking permit recipients have donated a total of \$190 to the church.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study



Bible Study is every Tuesday in-person at Fellowship Hall AND via Zoom. To participate on Zoom, contact Andy Hill at andy@andyhill.us or Rev. Montgomery at pastor.upcbloomington@gmail.com.

In the photo we see the September 19 group: Anita, Allen, Sue, Alejandra, Andy, Don, Jim, and leader Rev. Montgomery. Not shown are Benjamin and Souheil.

I'm sitting here in the study thinking and came up with this idea:

Anyone out there want to join me on Friday afternoons for some slow stitching? Slow stitching is a relatively new movement that has discovered the meditative aspect of hand-stitching—embroidery, quilting, sewing (even knitting and crocheting). Simply stitching, knitting, or crocheting by hand automatically slows us down and lets us just be. It is process-driven; we might make something but sometimes just want to pull the needle and thread through a piece of fabric and notice what happens. There is nothing right or wrong about it; stitches can be whatever size you want them to be; lines can be straight or curved, whatever. Slow stitching is a way to slow down and reconnect with our own sense of creativity.

You're invited to join me in rooms M&N at the church from 1pm-3pm on Fridays. I'll have plenty of fabric, yarn, thread, and needles but you can bring your own supplies or projects too.

Let me know if you're interested.

Cheryl

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

