

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian
Church

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The Christmas Joy Offering . . .

honors the faithfulness of our leaders. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, current and retired Presbyterian church workers and their families can receive critical financial help through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. \$1.1 million of gifts from the 2022 Offering are being used to provide need-based grants to support these leaders through life's challenging circumstances.

United Presbyterian will receive the PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 10 and Sunday, December 17 during morning worship. Joy Offering envelopes will be in the narthex.

UPC Music Program in Concert

Join us Wednesday evening, December 6 at 6 pm for a program of classical and traditional Christmas music, featuring the UPC Quartet and music director Benjamin Watkins. The program will include new arrangements of old favorites, including *O Come O Come Emmanuel* and *O Holy Night*, as well as the opportunity for the audience to request and sing along with favorite carols. The UPC Music Program in Concert takes place in the UPC Sanctuary and is free to all. You're welcome to bring friends and family.

Marielle Hug Masters Recital

UPC Quartet member Marielle Hug is presenting her Jacobs School of Music Masters Recital on Friday, December 8. It will be at 7:00 p.m. in Ford Crawford Hall on the second floor of the Simon Music Center, 200 S. Eagleson. All UPCers are invited to attend and bring friends. Admission is free. Parking is available free in the UPC parking lot. The Simon Music Center is a short distance from the church. Check with Reverend Montgomery about the possibility of free shuttle service that evening.



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 Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. If you're not already signed up to receive an email reminders 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

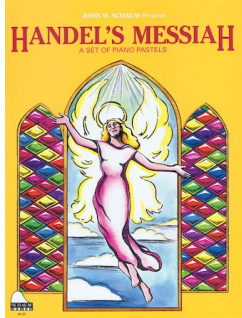
If you are interested in learning how to operate the sound system or help in taping Sunday worship service please contact Don Root at rootd@msn.com.

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.

Messiah Sing-Along is Back!

Bloomington Chamber Singers is delighted to resume its annual Christmas **Messiah Sing-along** on **Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 pm** at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 100 N. State Rd. 46, Bloomington. This FREE Bloomington holiday tradition draws hundreds of area singers (and listeners) who come together to sing part one and the "Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel's beloved oratorio, *Messiah*. The singers and orchestra will be led by BCS Artistic Director Dr. Gerald Sousa.

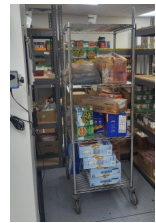


Messiah is well loved not just as sacred music, but for its challenging choruses and beautiful solos. Singers of all levels and backgrounds come together each year for this wintertime tradition. Beyond the "Hallelujah Chorus," beloved movements include "Comfort Ye, My People," "And He Shall Purify," "Glory to God," and many more. Attendees are welcome to sing along or simply listen to the choruses and arias, and enjoy recitatives performed by members of the Bloomington Chamber Singers. A livestream of the event will be available

at www.chambersingers.info.

Successful UPC Food Drive for MCUM

At the right you see a photo of the proceeds of UPC's recent month-long food drive being weighed in at Monroe County United Ministries. A whopping 140 pounds of food! Thanks to Benjamin Watkins for delivering the collection. Did you know he volunteers every Thursday at the MCUM food pantry?



December Birthdays and Anniversaries



Dec 10 Lance Like

Dec 23 Brenda Wood

Dec 27 Jane and Fred Priest Anniversary

Dec 28 Patrick & Agatha Nyarko Anniversary

Dec 28 Aline Hamati Haddad

Dec 31 Rowan Heitink



OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

October income was \$12,434 and expenses were \$14,495 giving us a net income of negative \$2,061 for October and negative \$13,926 for the year-to-date. As you can see, we are on track for a large deficit by year's end. If you are able to make an extra donation in December, that would be very welcome.

The path to long term financial stability for us is more members, so keep an eye out for people you can invite to church.

Don Root

2023 ADVENT

United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 3 — 10 a.m.

First Sunday in Advent

Led by Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Liturgists & Lighting of the Candle of Hope — Gerrit & Vera Heitink

The UPC Quartet, Benjamin Watkins, director

Wednesday, December 6 — 6 P.m.

UPC Music Program in Concert

Conducted & Directed by Dr. Benjamin Taylor Watkins

Sunday, December 10 — 10 a.m.

Second Sunday in Advent — Service of Lessons and Carols

Led by Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Liturgists & Lighting of Candle of Peace — John & Colleen Swanson

The UPC Quartet, Benjamin Watkins, director

Receiving of the Joy Offering

Wednesday, December 13 — 6 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner & Dessert Auction

Celebrity Chefs: Darian & Melanie Mathis McBride, Benjamin Watkins

Celebrity Auctioneers: Fadi Haddad, Souheil Haddad

Sunday, December 17— 10 a.m.

Third Sunday in Advent

Led by Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Liturgists & Lighting of the Candle of Joy — Fadi & Aline Haddad

Members of the UPC Quartet, Benjamin Watkins, director

Receiving of the Joy Offering

Sunday, December 24 — 7 p.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent & Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Led by Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Liturgists & Lighting of Candle of Love & Christ Candle

The Nyarko Family



Holy Communion officiated by Rev. Cheryl Montgomery,
prepared by UPC Deacons, Served by Elders Darian & Melanie

Mathis McBride

Circle of Light

2023 UPC Annual Congregational Meeting

UPC's Annual Congregational will be held at the end of the Sunday, January 21 worship service. The *Snow Date* is Sunday, January 28.



It's an opportunity to celebrate the UPC accomplishments of 2023 and focus upon the mission and ministry of the year ahead.

Attending the Annual Meeting will also help UPC friends and members in assessing how their own talents may be utilized to help the church. The meeting will be time well spent. To speed up the meeting, the 2024 Annual Report covering the year 2023 will be distributed the week before for perusal. Similar to last year at this time, we find that we've come through nearly three years of difficult times and UPC has survived because of teamwork and an overall spirit of togetherness. Please continue to exhibit this by attending this most important Annual Meeting.

Reports Covering 2023 for 2024 Annual Report are Due!

Church leaders, please get your annual report for the year 2023 in to the office by Wednesday, January 10 so that Allen can get them formatted and printed out the Sunday before the Annual Meeting. Reports may be dropped off in the church office or emailed to upcbloomington@gamil.com. If emailing, it's very helpful if reports are prepared in Times New Roman, 12 point as a Word document. Feel free to contact Allen in the church office with questions, comments or suggestions.

Election of 2024 Officers, Elders and Deacons

The election of UPC's officers, elders and deacons will take place immediately after morning worship on Sunday, December 17. On a to be determined Sunday in January, 2024, during morning worship, Reverend Montgomery will preside over the ceremonies of Ordination and Installation of the 2024 Officers, Elders and Deacons. Clerk of Session Don Root will be assisting.

Merry
Christmas

Tidings of
Comfort
and Joy!



The Worship Team
Invites You To The
8th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

And this year we're adding the
Dessert Auction

Wednesday, December 13 6 to 8 p.m. — Fellowship Hall



To benefit UPC's Music Program.

Spaghetti with Marinara! Spaghetti with Meat Sauce!
Fettuccini Alfredo! Tossed Salad!
Garlic Bread! Homemade Desserts! Coffee, Ice Tea and Milk!.

Celebrity Chefs!
UPC Christian Ed Director Melanie Mathis-McBride
Elder Darian McBride
UPC Music Director Benjamin Taylor Watkins



Dessert Auction!
Many homemade and very special desserts.
If you'd like to donate a homemade dessert — See Allen or Melanie.



Merry Christmas!

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

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


The group is currently studying the book of Philippians.




"SANTA MUST REALLY BE BUSY IF HE'S GOT YOU HELPING HIM WRAP PRESENTS."

Help the 2022 and 2023 State Class C Champions, the Edgewood Marching Mustangs purchase new equipment!

Collect and save Pizza X
Proof-Of-Purchase (POP)
tabs from our pizza boxes.



Ask your friends to save them, too!



Click here or head over to pizzaxbloomington.com/pop for a list of participating schools and other info!

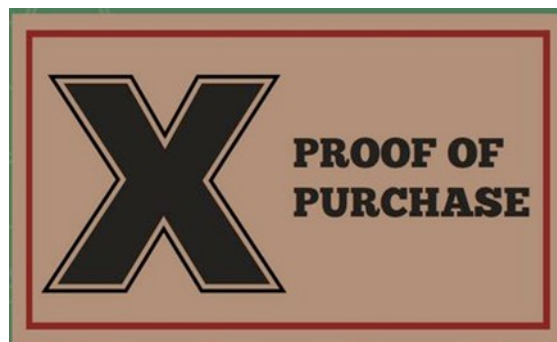
POPs are worth **DOUBLE
during National Education
Week (**Nov. 13-17**) so be sure
to turn yours in to your
participating school
before then!**

Simply cut off the proof-of-purchase from your Pizza X box
and place it in the container near the Little Red Wagon
outside of the Fellowship Hall.

This will be a year-round collection, but we get double the do-
nation in November.

Logan and Caroline Worden are members
of the Marching Mustangs.

Stephanie Worden will collect and deliver them to
Edgewood High School.

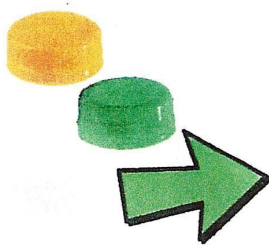
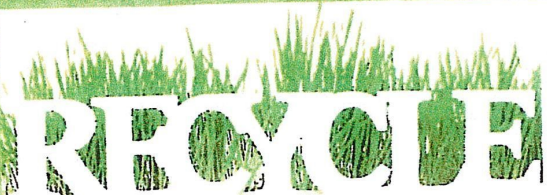




**GREEN
TREE
PLASTICS**

Save caps for Kiwanis / Aktion Club

ABC PROMISE PARTNERSHIP



ACCEPTABLE PLASTIC CAPS & LIDS

ANY PLASTIC CAP/LID WITH A RECYCLE NUMBER OF



Any Drink Bottle Caps
(soda, water, juice, tea, sports drinks)

Applesauce Pouch Caps

Baby Food Caps

Deodorant Caps

Detergent Caps

Flip-Top Caps

Hair Spray Caps

Marker Caps

Milk Jug Caps

Ointment Tube Caps

Medicine Bottle Caps

(Prescription & OTC / paper info packet removed)

Plastic Sheeting Spool Caps

Spout Caps

Shampoo/Conditioner Caps

Spray Paint Caps

Toothpaste Tube Caps

Water Bottle Caps

Cool Whip Lids

Ice Cream Bucket Lids

Peanut Butter Jar Lids

Cottage Cheese Lids

Cream Cheese Lids

Butter Lids

Coffee Can Lids

Mayonnaise Jar Lids

Nestea Lids

Yogurt Lids

Pringles Lids

Plastic Easter Eggs

5 Gallon Bucket Lids

(all acceptable plastic lids must be under 8" in diameter)

For these to be acceptable, you must ask an adult to use a table saw to cut them into fourths)



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Green Tree Plastics -
ABC Partnership!



YouTube

You can view or subscribe to
our YouTube channel.



Green Tree Plastics
Information

These items are NOT ACCEPTABLE:

Medicine "BOTTLES"
(prescription or OTC bottles are not acceptable)

the actual drink "BOTTLES"
(bottles are a different kind of plastic than the caps)

any Cap with a Silicon Lining
(from chemicals/cleaners, this would include some bleach and motor oil caps)

"Pumps & Trigger Sprayers"
(soap/lotion pumps, they may be plastic, but they have pieces inside them that are not acceptable)

"Fast-Food Drink Lids"
(these are the wrong type of plastic. This includes fast-food cup lids & coffee drink lids, as well as the lids from deli items at Wal-Mart)

"Bags"
(Plastic Ziplock bags or Grocery Bags)

Any "Food" Container
(even if the plastic recycle number is a 2, 4 or 5)

K-Cups, Straws, Medical Supplies,
plastic pieces that are not a lid/cap

**NEVER ANY
METAL or TRASH!**

WWW.GREENTREEPLASTICS.COM

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