

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian
Church

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CHRISTMAS EVE at United Presbyterian began at 7 p.m. with worship called to order by Reverend Cheryl Montgomery. With between



45 and 50 in attendance, members of the Nyarko family lit the Advent Wreath's Candle of Joy.

Guest pianist Gabriel Bruner then performed *Prelude in C Ma-*

nor from *Book 1 of the Well-Tempered Clavier* on piano.

As liturgist, Deacon Patrick Nyarko presented the Call to Worship followed by congregational singing of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. The Nyarko Family returned to the Advent Wreath to light the Christ Candle.

Rev. Montgomery read scriptures from Luke and led the singing of carols including *Away in a Manger* and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. She completed this segment of the service with her sermon, *To Us a Child Is Born*

UPC's traditional Christmas Eve *Sacrament of Holy Communion* was overseen by Rev. Montgomery with Elders Darian and Melanie Mathis McBride serving. Holy Communion was concluded with the congregational *Sharing the Light* and singing *Silent Night*. The worshipers sang a very appropriate closing hymn, *Joy to the World!*

After Rev. Montgomery's Benediction, guest artist Bruner's Postlude was *Break Forth, O Beautiful Heavenly Light*.



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 income was \$11,157 and expenses were \$11,637 giving us a net income of negative \$480 for November and negative \$9,996 for the year-to-date. This ytd deficit is somewhat lower than previously reported due to some errors uncovered in previous month reports. Preliminary reports for December indicate that some generous donors made extra year end donations resulting in a lower than expected deficit for 2023. Final results will be reported at the annual meeting. Thanks to all who have been donating generously during these difficult times.

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

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 Anderson Parler 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.

United Presbyterian Church 2024

SHROVE TUESDAY



UPC's sixth Shrove Tuesday is February 13!

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday — the first day of Lent. It's often celebrated by consuming pancakes. It's called Mardi Gras and celebrated as a carnival day and the last day of "fat eating" or "gorging" before the fasting period of Lent. Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday.

The UPC Worship Team presents

Pancake Supper

6 p.m. February 13 - Fellowship Hall at United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second Street

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery - host

Free!

Live music by

Heritage Hall Ramblers Dixieland Band.

The Menu

Enjoy pancakes personally flipped by the Worship Team!

Your choice: Plain, blueberry, chocolate chip, no gluten .

Sausage. Iced Tea O.J. Milk. Toppings!

King Cake

Whoever finds the 'baby' in the cake wins a prize!

Donations accepted for
UPC Music Program



8th Annual Spaghetti Dinner Super Success!

The UPC Worship Team & UPC Youth's December 13 Spaghetti Dinner was a huge success in food, fun, fellowship and fund raising. New this year was the Dessert Auction. Because of hard work by volunteers, ticket sales, cash donations at the door, dessert donations and the auction, UPC cleared an amazing \$1,255.00 to benefit the UPC Music Program.

Our Celebrity Chef's Darian McBride, Melanie Mathis McBride and Benjamin Watkins were awesome and ably assisted by Reverend Montgomery, Michelle Heitink, Andy Hill and others. The decorations fit the room and season perfectly.

The maniacal Celebrity Auctioneers Fadi Haddad and Souheil Haddad added greatly to the evening's fun. The astonishing variety and exceptional quality of the donated desserts assured the auction's success.



Fadi, Aline, John, Colleen & Benjamin



The Worden's

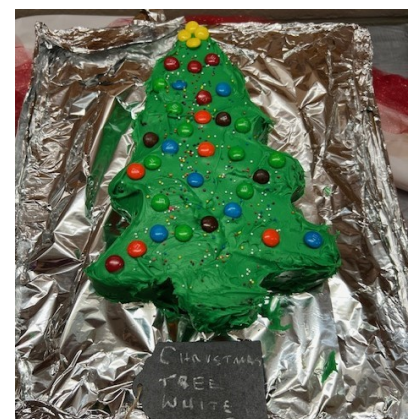


Elder David and Elder Andy



The Kitchen Crew.

←
Passing out the Bid Paddles.
→



The fantastic donated dessert's table! Benjamin, Michelle and Aline. Phillip Addison's Christmas Tree Cake went for \$50! Thanks to Souheil for these great photos. The Worship Team thanks all for this success.



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

December 28, 2023
Dear UPC Friends,

On behalf of the Bloomington chapter of the Self-Realization Fellowship, it is my pleasure to present you with our annual donation to thank you for allowing us to convene here for our weekly meditation and prayer sessions on Thursday evenings.
In appreciation and divine friendship,

Robin Roy Gress, secretary
Self-Realization Fellowship



Marielle Hug Masters Recital Amazing!

UPC Quartet member Marielle Hug presented her Jacobs School of Music Masters Recital the evening of Friday, December 8 in Ford Crawford Hall of the Simon Music Center.

It was a well attended and amazing voice performance as thrilling as it was inspiring!

Marielle chose to perform works by women composers of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries — all too often ignored or forgotten. This was an excellent choice as the pieces were perfection. She was accompanied by piano throughout plus cello on one exceptionally moving piece.

UPCers attending all agreed it was a wonderful experience of music.

← Benjamin visits with Marielle after the recital as attendees lined up to congratulate her.

2024 UPC Annual Congregational Meeting Covering 2023

UPC's Annual Congregational Meeting 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 help UPC friends and members in assessing how their own talents may be utilized for the church. You'll find it to 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, 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.

FREE CANCER SUPPORT SERVICES

Ensuring No One Faces
Cancer Alone.

Serving Bloomington, IN & Surrounding Communities

CANCER SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS & FAMILIES

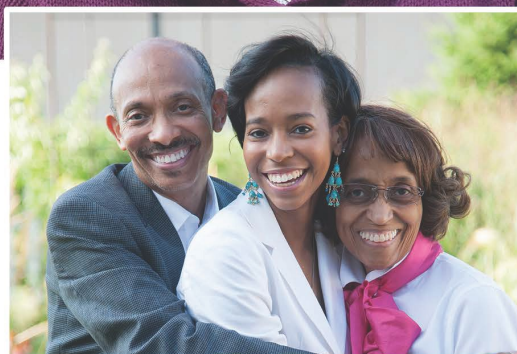
For over 25 years, Cancer Support Community Central Indiana (CSC) has led the charge in Indiana to build a vibrant community of cancer survivors and their loved ones. We focus on providing FREE mental health and wellness support to complement medical treatments in order to nurture every part of a patient as they learn and grow and recover.

All cancer survivors, from newly diagnosed to those in remission, as well as family and friends are welcome to attend our free programs.

A huge thank you goes to Bloomington Health Foundation for funding these much needed programs and services.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

**SUPPORT GROUPS
COUNSELING SERVICES
EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS
WELLNESS CLASSES
SOCIAL PROGRAMMING & EVENTS**



Provided in partnership with:



Indiana University Health

All programs are provided **FREE OF CHARGE** to cancer survivors and their loved ones.

For more information about programs and services call 812-929-0658 or email info@cancersupportscin.org