

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian
Church

1701 E. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

812 -332-1850

upcbloomington@gmail.com

<http://upcbloomington.org>



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



**It's amazing what happens
when we join together.**

Presbyterians are part of a remarkable tradition. The PC(USA)'s four church-wide Special Offerings help share Christ's love with millions of people around the world.

Prepare the Way

ISAIAH 40

The Christmas Joy Offering brings the whole church together to be with church workers and their families who are in critical financial need due to illness or a lack of resources. It also equips students of color through leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to maximize their God-given potential as they lead our Church and our world. This Offering is our way of being with these past, present and future leaders.



MATHEW 25

Inside this Edition	
2	Birthdays and Anniversaries
2	Financial Report
2	How to Get Involved
3	Spaghetti Dinner!
4	Nelda Nyarko!
5	UPC Musician Update
6	Fond Farewell to Cheryl Montgomery
7	Happy 90th Jim McDonald!
8	The Mulryan-Iverson Music Endowment
9	Hat and Mitten Tree
9	Comics!
9	Share Your Christmas Story

The Christmas Joy Offering began in the 1930s when the Presbyterian Church in the United States began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement and provide medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries and church workers. It officially became the Joy Gift in 1949. The Joy Offering will be received during UPC worship on Dec. 22 & 29.

October/November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Oct 1	KyungAe Lim	Oct 17	Gerrit Jan Heitink
Oct 6	Bob Hammel	Oct 25	Pilsoo Kang
Oct 10	Rula Hanania	Oct 26	John and Colleen Swanson Anniversary
Oct 10	Jim McDonald	Oct 31	Darian and Melanie Mathis McBride Anniversary
Nov 2	Raja and Rula Hanania Anniversary	Nov 14	Gerrit Heitink
Nov 3	Benjamin Watkins	Nov 21	Jo Barnett
Nov 10	Nelda Nyarko		

SEPT-OCT FINANCIAL REPORT

With reduced pastoral expenses, we are slowly reducing our deficit for the year. September was a good month, with income exceeding expenses by \$8,074. October, not so good, with a low income of \$10,714, which only exceeded expenses by \$41. Year to date deficit was \$23,304 at the end of October. November and December are typically good months, income wise, so hopefully, we can end the year without too large a deficit.

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 Parlor 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.



UPC Youth Dessert Auction

6 p.m., Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Enjoy your dinner and bid on your dessert
Purchase one to share and one for your holiday affair
All proceeds will support the UPC music program this year

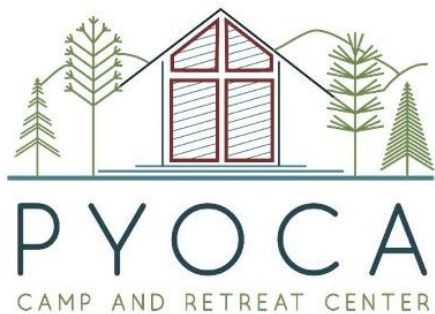


Tossed Salad! Spaghetti with Marinara! Spaghetti with Meat Sauce!
Fettuccini Alfredo! Garlic Bread! Coffee, Ice Tea and Milk!.

Celebrity Chefs!

UPC Christian Ed Director Melanie Mathis-McBride Elder Darian McBride
UPC Music Director Benjamin Watkins

Celebrity Auctioneers: Elders Fadi Haddad & Souheil Haddad
Dessert Auction! If you'd like to donate a homemade dessert — See Melanie or Allen.



**Nelda Nyarko
attended
Challenge Art
at camp PYOCA
June 23 – 28.**

She is pictured here with
some of her projects from
her week at camp.

Thank you to all who
support our UPC Youth.



Former UPC Musicians Making their Mark!

United Presbyterian Church has a rich music history which we have been delighted to have supported and nurtured. Below you'll find interesting updates on the careers of two former UPC musicians.

Conner Continues Upward Journey through the Opera World

Conner McWhirter was an integral part of the UPC Quartet for several years as he earned his Performance Diploma at IU's Jacobs School of Music. We all could hear what an exceptional vocalist he is. At the end of 2023 he was offered a three-month contract to perform with the Sarasota Opera January through March of 2024. He didn't forget us — soon as he completed his contract, he came right back to us and sang with the UPC Quartet through the end of May!

Now, more great news for Conner. Below you see, word for word, the press release and photo issued by the Shreveport Opera. While reading it, their excitement over signing Conner can be felt.



Conner McWhirter, Tenor, is starting his 2024-2025 season as a Resident Artist with Shreveport Opera. He was most recently an apprentice artist with Sarasota Opera, where he covered Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. He received a performance diploma from Indiana University, where he performed both Tybalt and Romeo, in Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*, and the Torero in *Ainadamar*. Additional roles include the Prince in *Russalka*, the Duke in *Rigoletto*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, and Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*. He received his MM from SMU and BM from Eastman. He is thrilled to be performing Remendado in *Carmen* (covering Don Jose) as well as Spoletta in *Tosca* during his residency with Shreveport Opera.

Jeeyoon Kim is a Sellout!

Regarding her Jasper Arts Center concert in Jasper on Jan 18, 2025, Jeeyoon writes:

The Sold-out Tickets for my Concert in Indiana – I planned to announce my concert in Indiana for the upcoming season in this newsletter today so those interested could get tickets. However, within an hour of the ticket link going live, I was informed that all seats were immediately sold out. I am thrilled the organization will have a vibrant concert with a full house!

The Maine Concert— Speaking of upcoming concerts, Jeeyoon will be performing in Maine for the first time, February 2, 2025, at the Sanford Performing Arts Center. If you're up for a winter adventure, save the date and join her. Jeeyoon was with UPC while earning degrees at IU and her DM at Butler. After two successful album and concerts around the world, critics urge the public to not miss the opportunity to experience her groundbreaking performance that bridges classical artistry with modern multimedia. She's become celebrated for her innovative approach to classical piano. Known for transforming traditional performances into interactive experiences, Jeeyoon has captivated audiences with her fresh perspective. One recent critic noted: Her acclaimed 2016 debut album, *10 More Minutes*, and subsequent projects have set her apart in the classical world.



A Fond Farewell . . .

There were a lot of mixed emotions at United Presbyterian on Sunday, September 1. The congregation sadly said farewell to Reverend Cheryl Montgomery while celebrating her retirement. During a beautiful morning worship service, Reverend Montgomery presented her final sermon with us and shared her farewell Holy Communion with the congregation.

Immediately after the service, UPC friends and members gathered in Fellowship Hall for a home-made lunch buffet. We asked Rev. Montgomery about the menu; she said “What would make me the happiest is food a UPCer considers their favorite that they’ve prepared during my time here. I’d like to share it with them one more time.” And that’s exactly what we did 00 a bountiful buffet from the hearts and hands of United Presbyterian.

A big thank you goes to Souheil Haddad for all of these greet photos.



Rev. Montgomery has moved to Florida where she is close to her mother, a niece and a sister and brother-in-law.



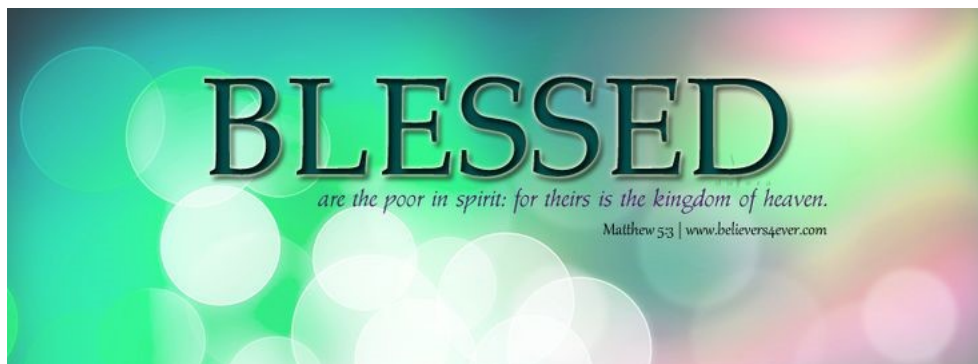
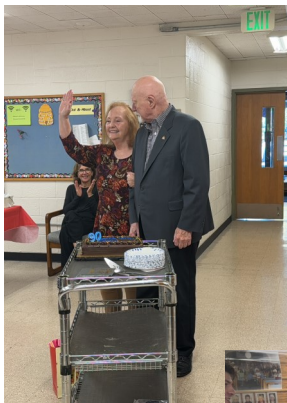
Happy 90th to Jim McDonald

October 27th was Reformation Sunday and the morning worship service reflected that for the congregation in the music and message. UPC also celebrated the 51st wedding anniversary of John and Colleen Swanson as well as the 90th birthday of Jim McDonald. Two arrangements of sanctuary flowers marked each milestones.

After the morning worship service, Jim shared a 90th birthday cake and refreshments with the congregation. As Happy Birthday was sung, Jim blew out a large '90' candle instead of dozens of little candles. We don't know what his wish was! The special cake noted his 90th and a birthday card celebrating his 90th signed by everyone present was given to Jim in addition to many cards from individuals.

Tom and Linda Brown presented Jim, a died in the wool Scottsman, a 100 year old set of the complete works of famed Scottish poet and author Robert Burns. The gift was greatly appreciated. Linda wrapped up the presentation by appropriately wishing Jim Happy Birthday in Gaelic.

UPC's resident photographer, Souheil Haddad is responsible for this collection of pictures.



The Mulryan-Iverson Music Endowment for UPC.



Judie Iverson was an active member of United Presbyterian Church for many years until her passing on June 26, 2021. Her family desired to do something meaningful and lasting in her memory. Judie loved music and she loved her church family and thus a contribution in support of the music program of United Presbyterian Church seems appropriate.

In July of 2021, Krista Detor, daughter of Judie, presented UPC with a \$500 check. Krista noted that Judie loved music so much and was so pleased with the work of Music Director Benjamin Watkins, that her family would repeat the donation annually in her memory.

In 2022, the arrangement was formally organized as The Mulryan-Iverson Music Endowment for United Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, Indiana or The Mulryan-Iverson Music Endowment for UPC.

Since 2021, Judie's family has donated \$500 annually via The Hundredth Hill. In 2022, the Souheil & Alejandra Haddad family made a pledge of an annual donation and have done so annually. Other UPC members and friends have made various donations to the Endowment at the end of Summer each year.

August has been the month for additions to the Endowment in the past. Do to extenuating circumnutates, we were unable to do so this year. Donations for 2024 were made through October 16.

2024 additions to the The Mulryan-Iverson Music Endowment for UPC.

The Hundredth Hill/Iverson family annual pledge

Souheil and Alejandra family annual pledge

Lou Malcomb

Allen Pease

Louise Rodeman

Worship Team Movie Project

2024 Hat & Mitten Tree for Monroe County United Ministries

The Hat & Mitten Tree is in Fellowship Hall. Please decorate it with hats, mittens, gloves, earmuffs and scarves in *sizes from toddlers to Teens*. The *decorations* will be taken to MCUM for their annual Merry Market and as Christmas gifts to Monroe County children and Teens in need. Stephanie Worden has volunteered to shop if you don't have the time. Simply bring a check or cash to the church office or to Stephanie and she'll do your shopping.



LAST DAY to DECORATE the TREE is Wednesday, December 4!



Invite to Share For December Reaching

Do you have a favorite Christmas story you'd like to share? Is there a cherished Christmas memory you'd like talk about? How about a fabulous recipe that's been handed down generation to generation in your family you'd like to reveal? Or, a recipe you've developed that you prepare each year during the Christmas season. Christmas photos, humorous or nostalgic would also be great.

Andy and Allen would love to have these be a part of the December Christmas issue of Reaching RU. Simply email your submission, in Times New Roman 12 point if you can, to upcbloomington@gmail.com by Friday November 22.

Don't be shy! Add to the Christmas joy with your submission.

