

December 2024 Reaching U.P.

Reaching UP

United Presbyterian
Church

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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.

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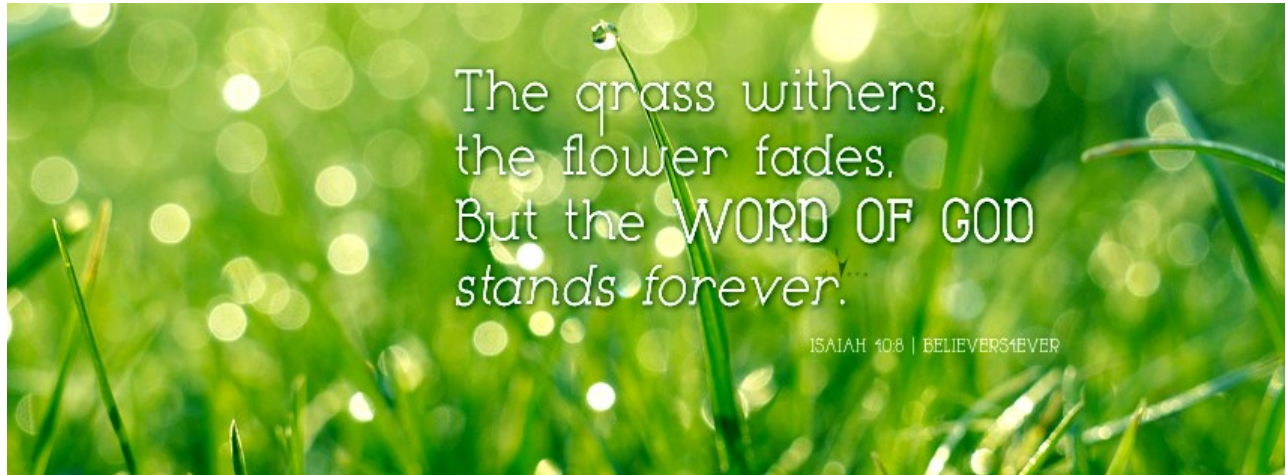
The Christmas Joy Offering began in the 1930s when the Presbyterian Church in the United States began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement and provide medical insurance for former ministers and missionaries. The Joy Offering will be received on Dec. 22 & 29.

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



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.

Christmas Memories

We have many cherished Christmas memories with our children and extended family as well as from our annual Christmas party with friends, family and our UPC community. One memory we're happy to share with you is from the 2016 Christmas party at our home. Bob and Sue Lorimer arrived wearing traditional Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus hats. Their festive disposition was contagious and their seasonal attire perfectly appropriate for a Christmas party. They added so much to the cheer of the celebration. Witnessing their love and affection for each other as well as their heartfelt fellowship with all was wonderful.



We miss Bob while feeling blessed to have Sue with us and thank them for this warm, cherished Christmas memory.

Souheil & Alejandra Haddad

I have a Christmas memory I'd like to share. Souheil Haddad and his son Sami often took me to the theater, concerts, movies and forays into a variety of restaurants. Sami is now a successful business person with an IU Bachelor's, a University of Wisconsin Masters and a beautiful wife — talented artist Sabrina. Just before Christmas of 2014, along with Alejandra and friends, the three of us went to La Torre Restaurant (now gone). There we spotted three huge sombreros hanging on the wall as part of the Mexican 'décor.' As the goofs we are, we took them down, slapped them on our heads and became a trio, then the Three Musketeers and other silly characters as our friends and relatives laughed. Then the other diners joined the laughter. Even the staff were laughing — not one bit upset about messing with the restaurant's wall hangings. The place filled with joy and good spirits. We titled one of the photos taken: "Who Wouldn't Want to be Us?" Each of us has a framed copy. Every time I see the photo, I'm flooded with the warm memory of the collective joy, fellowship and kind spirit of all those people.



Allen Pease

Thank You Poinsettia Display Sponsors



Jo Barnett Brenda Wood Bremer Fadi & Aline Haddad
Souheil & Alejandra Haddad Jim Haverstock Gerrit & Vera Heitink
Michelle Heitink Lance & Karen Like
Sue Lorimer Allen Pease Don & Anne Root



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

Desserts needed for Dessert Auction!

If you'd like to donate a dessert — See Melanie or Allen.

We invite you to the Hannah Gala on December 12th!

Hannah GALA

Thursday 12 December

6:00 PM

SWITCHYARD PARK PAVILION
1601 S ROGERS STREET

hannahcenter.org/gala

HANNAH GALA DECEMBER 12TH

The Hannah Gala is a wonderful evening with dinner, music, a silent auction, and an inspiring message of the many miracles of life. We hope you will join us for a fun and relaxing night. **As always, there is no charge for pastors and spouses.** Your church's support will enable us to continue providing essential, free services like pregnancy testing, counseling, case management, help with practical needs, prenatal and childbirth education, doula services, parenting classes, and more to families in our community.

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

LEE PETTYJOHN

As former Mrs. North Carolina and now a State Director, Lee empowers women to discover their God-given inner beauty and strength. Lee has passionately advocated for kids in the foster care system as a CASA/GAL for 25 years. Lee is a true leader, mentor, and role model, dedicated to speaking life to those she meets. She has held many impactful positions. However, she says the most instrumental and life-changing one was being the Client Services Director at the Hannah Center. Lee says she accepted the position to be a blessing to clients, but what the Lord did through them and her colleagues was one of the most blessed and transformative times of spiritual growth in her life. Join us at the Hannah Gala to learn more about the miracle journey that made her a mom and an advocate for life.



WITH MUSIC BY AUDREY ROSE

Our guest musical artist, Audrey Rose, is a local teenage singer/songwriter and is a walking miracle. After surviving heart surgery in infancy, Audrey has given back by becoming a Riley Hospital Advocate, recently releasing an original song about the miracle network of hospitals and clinics. In addition to using her talents to help others, she uses her incredible vocal giftings to glorify God on her church's worship team.



2024 ADVENT

United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 1 — 10 a.m.

First Sunday in Advent

Led by Reverend Susan McGhee Holy Communion

Liturgists & Lighting of the Candle of Hope — Jim Haverstock

The UPC Quartet, Benjamin Watkins, director

Wednesday, December 4 — 6 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner & Dessert Auction

Celebrity Chefs: Darian & Melanie Mathis McBride, Benjamin Watkins

Celebrity Auctioneers: Fadi Haddad, Souheil Haddad

Sunday, December 8 — 10 a.m.

Second Sunday in Advent

Led by Reverend David Lee

Liturgists & Lighting of Candle of Peace — Michelle Heitink

The UPC Quartet, Benjamin Watkins, director

Sunday, December 15— 10 a.m.

Third Sunday in Advent

Led by Elder Alejandra Haddad

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

The UPC Quartet, Benjamin Watkins, director

Sunday, December 22 — 10 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Led by Deacon Souheil Haddad

Liturgist & Lighting of the Candle of Love — Phillip Addison

The UPC Quartet, Benjamin Watkins, director

Receiving of the Joy Offering

11:00 a.m. — Souheil & Alejandra's Christmas Lunch & Party in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service led by Reverend Susan McGhee

Liturgists & Lighting of Christ Candle — The Nyarko Family

Holy Communion officiated by Rev. Susan McGhee,

prepared by UPC Deacons, Served by

Elders Darian & Melanie Mathis McBride

Sharing the Light



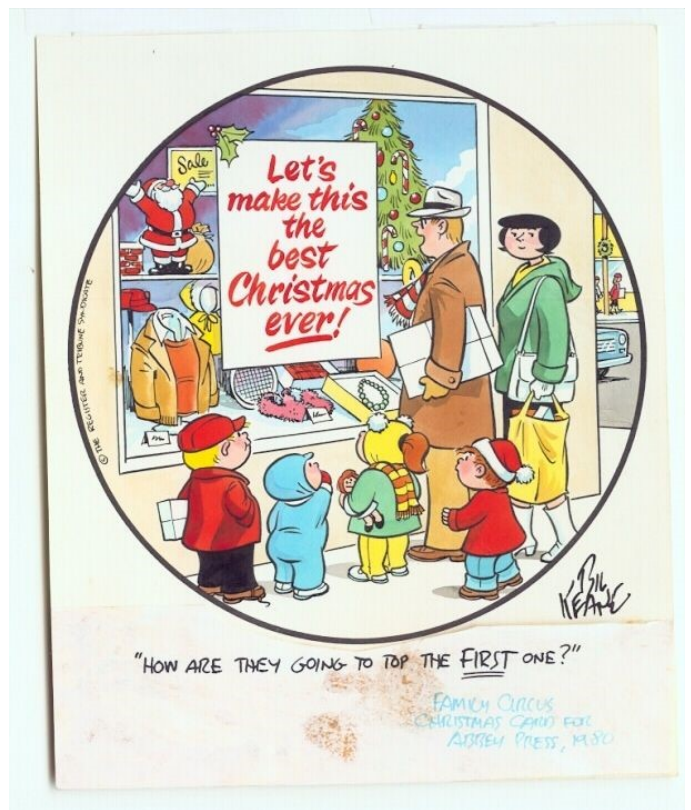


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Bill
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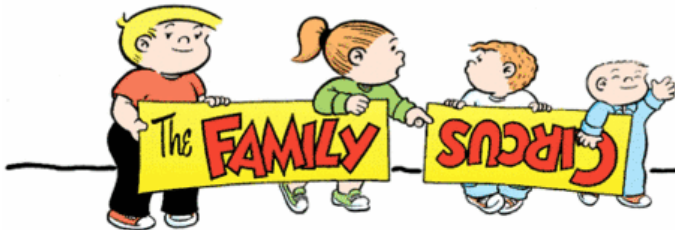
**"They won't know till they're grown,
but their BEST gifts are the
memories they're making."**



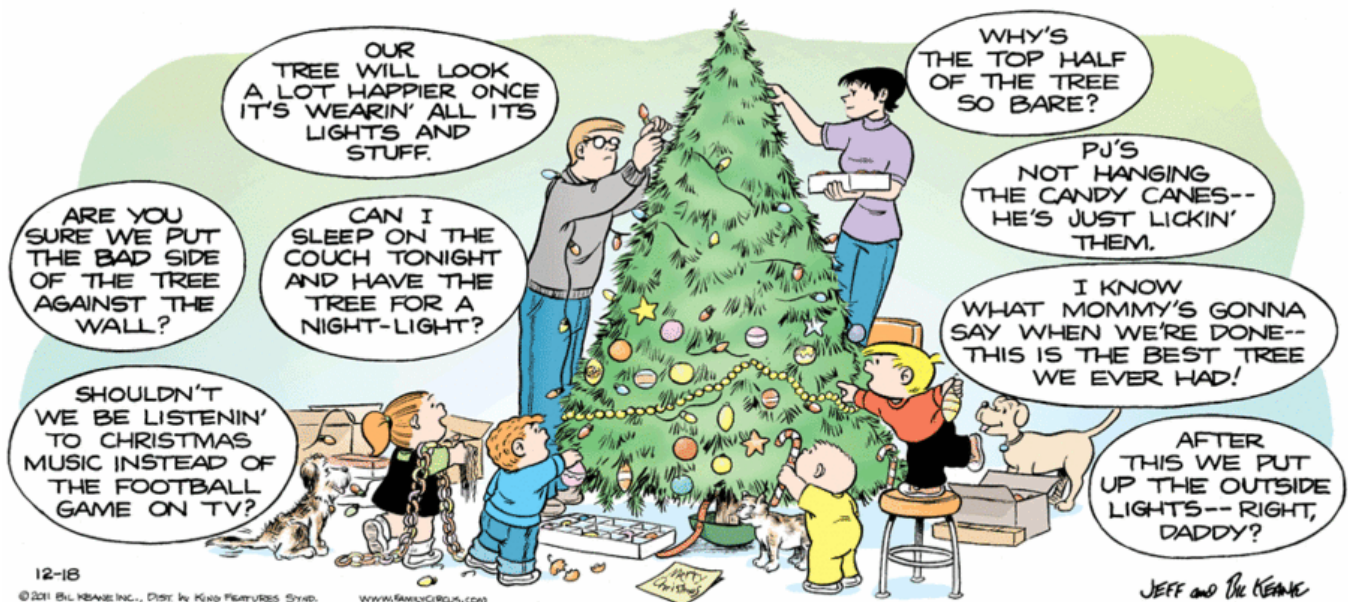
"HOW ARE THEY GOING TO TOP THE FIRST ONE?"

FAMILY CIRCUS
CHRISTMAS CARD FOR
ADBEY PRESS, M.S.C.

Bill
KEANE



By Bill Keane



OUR TREE WILL LOOK A LOT HAPPIER ONCE IT'S WEARIN' ALL ITS LIGHTS AND STUFF.

WHY'S THE TOP HALF OF THE TREE SO BARE?

ARE YOU SURE WE PUT THE BAD SIDE OF THE TREE AGAINST THE WALL?

CAN I SLEEP ON THE COUCH TONIGHT AND HAVE THE TREE FOR A NIGHT-LIGHT?

PJ'S NOT HANGING THE CANDY CANES-- HE'S JUST LICKIN' THEM.

I KNOW WHAT MOMMY'S GONNA SAY WHEN WE'RE DONE-- THIS IS THE BEST TREE WE EVER HAD!

SHOULDN'T WE BE LISTENIN' TO CHRISTMAS MUSIC INSTEAD OF THE FOOTBALL GAME ON TV?

AFTER THIS WE PUT UP THE OUTSIDE LIGHTS-- RIGHT, DADDY?

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JEFF and Bill KEANE