

Reaching UP

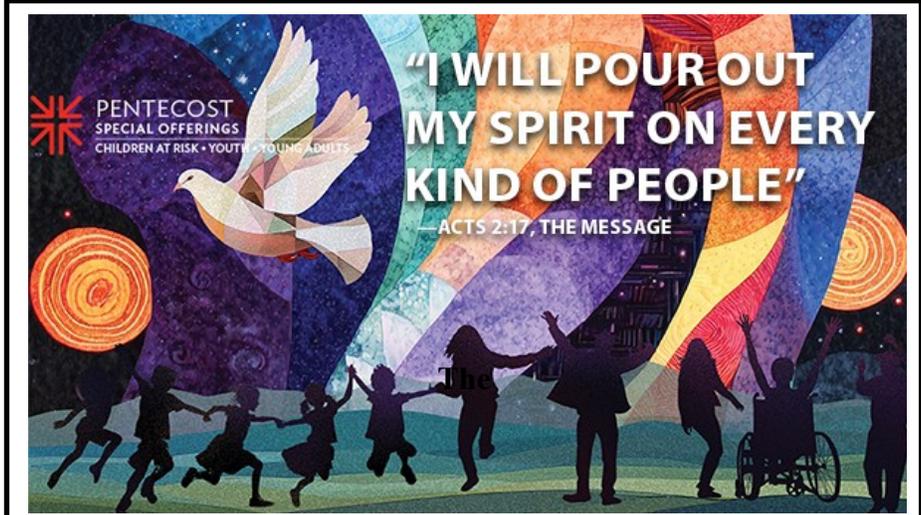
United Presbyterian Church

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Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith formed in adulthood.

*UPC will receive this Special Offering during worship
Pentecost Sunday, June 8*

Each Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future.

This celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come. Pentecost arrives 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension when Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus and the Scriptures are making an important theological point at Pentecost. Jesus ascends and the church is born. If his mission and ministry is to continue, it is upon us, his disciples, to continue, and we have the Holy Spirit to lead us.

QUICK FACTS

- Congregations keep 40% of receipts to initiate or support programs for youth.
- The first Presbyterian Youth Triennium was in 1980. Visit presbyterianyouthtriennium.org for more info.
- The Young Adult Volunteer program sends young adults to serve in partner sites world-wide since 1994.
- Pentecost is usually represented with the color red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit. **So, wear red on June 8!**

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June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Jun 3	Julie Hammel	Jun 21	Bill and Stephanie Worden Anniversary
Jun 4	Souheil & Alejandra Haddad	Jun 22	Robert and Julie Hammel Anniversary
Jun 5	Fadi and Aline Haddad	Jun 23	Sami Haddad
Jun 6	Jane Hammel Priest	Jun 27	Thomas Tadao Like
Jun 7	Aida Haddad	Jun 27	Andy Hill
Jun 8	Phillip Addison	Jun 29	Raja Hanania
Jun 12	Allen Pease		



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.

SPRING

Youth Flower Sale Fundraiser



**THANK YOU
FOR A WONDERFULLY SUCCESSFUL
2025 YOUTH FLOWER SALE!!!**

*Your support of UPC Youth is
greatly appreciated!*

Monthly Newsletter of United Presbyterian Church, 1701 E. Second Street—Bloomington, IN 47401.
Editor: Andy Hill. Submissions are accepted and welcomed. Please email upcbloomington@gmail.com.



We Get Letters . . .

Letters to Reaching UP are most welcomed.
Drop yours off in the church office or email it to . . .
upcbloomington@gmail.com.
Please send questions, comments, suggestions or articles.

Dear UPC,
Thank you for the love and support over these growing years.
I am truly blessed to have found a spiritual and musical home.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Taylor Watkins

It's Here!

We are excited to announce the release of the Nyaka Impact Evaluation Report 2024, a powerful testament to the incredible progress we've made together in southwest Uganda. See the entire report: info@nyakaglobal.org

The highlights include:

- 92,148** orphaned and vulnerable children supported.
- 23,037** grandmothers empowered to care for and protect children.
- 129,719** people reached thru sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention efforts.
- \$432,430** disbursed in microloans to strengthen families.
- 14,380** medical consultations delivered to communities in need.

Every number represents a life changed, a future rewritten, and a community strengthened.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support continues to nurture hope, drive resilience, and build brighter futures.

Jackson Kaguri, Founder & CEO



Easter Sunday at Untired Presbyterian

It was a beautiful day for an Easter Sunday worship service of celebration with 55 worshippers in attendance. The Worship Team's traditional Easter Lily display was beautiful. Music Director Watkins' Prelude was a joyful and so appropriate *I Danced in the Morning*.

The hymns sung throughout the service were perfect in enhancing the congregation's rejoicing the Resurrection — *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*, *Christ Is Alive* and *Thine is the Glory!* The UPC Quartet beautifully sang *Gloria*.

Deacon Vera Heitink served as liturgist. The longtime UPC Easter Sunday tradition of reading the scriptures in the languages of the congregation was continued. Luke 24: 1-12 was read in Arabic by Fadi Haddad, Dutch by Jan Berend Heitink, Fante was read by Mathew Quansmat, Vera Heitink read in French followed by Gerrit Heitink reading in German, Alejandra Haddad in Spanish, Patrick Nyarko in Twi and Revered Carol Barrett bringing the readings to a close with the scripture in English. Following was Reverend Barrett's sermon *Looking in Through Tears* which was unique, inspiring, educational and well received.

The Postlude was a most appropriate *He Lives* beautifully presented by Director Watkins on the piano. This time of rejoicing the resurrection of Christ was topped off by UPC's traditional Easter Brunch immediately after the service.



Happy 60th Anniversary!



Sunday, May 18, Anne and Don Root celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. A beautiful floral arrangement in the sanctuary celebrated their anniversary as well as enhanced the worship experience.

An awesome anniversary cake and array of bagels was very well received during fellowship.

Let's Help Sue Lorimer Rack Up #47!

The 47th Annual Bloomfield First Presbyterian Women's Association's Tasting Luncheon is Friday, June 27th.

Sue Lorimer has attended everyone of the first 46.

And we want her to make it to the 47th! Let's put a road trip to Bloomfield together.

Attendees get a tablespoon of each of twelve dishes selected and prepared by the Women's Association. And it adds up to a hearty lunch.

Sue's husband, the late Reverend Robert Lorimer, served First Presbyterian for many years as pastor. Just over 47 years ago, Sue was among the women who founded the fundraiser which is now an annual tradition.

Everyone from UPC who's attended in the past had a great time lunching, fellowshiping and meeting Sue's friends. In this photo we see Susan Isenogle, Bloomfield First Presbyterians' secretary and long time friend of Sue.

If interested in going — check in with Allen, we'll carpool from the UPC parking lot leaving about 10:45 a.m. Tickets are \$10 including a take-home recipe booklet.



A Change for the UPC Little Red Wagon

The UPC Deacons have had a Little Red Wagon just outside of Fellowship Hall for many years. Our congregation has faithfully filled it week after week with food and hygiene items for the Monroe County United Ministries Food Pantry. In January, MCUM became Pathways and re-structured their goals to a specific program to break generational poverty. This program has worked successfully in communities across the U.S.A. They now only assist family units, therefore, the food pantry collections go only to these clients, about 7% of those formerly served. MCUM collaborated with area not-for-profits in planning this change and is making referrals for those seeking assistance such as the elderly, disabled and single parents. The UPC Session has determined that continuing to serve the community-wide will continue to be our goal. Food/hygiene donations placed in the Little Red Wagon will go to our blessing box and to Pantry 279, one of the agencies to which MCUM is making referrals. Session is looking into ways to support the Pathways program financially. Following is information regarding Pantry 279.



Pantry 279 was conceived, built, and run by 10 Girl Scouts from troop 69-279 as their Silver Award Project. The girls, ranging between age 11 – 13 at the time, wanted to build a food pantry to help their friends at school who were only getting food while at school, due to family crisis.

With the help of their Leader, parents and a partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church, this was achieved and Pantry 279 opened Nov. 2, 2015.

We expected that after a year of operation, to be serving approximately 30 people a week. This happened on week two. Our first month we served 607 people, the second, over 1,200, third — over 1,400 and so it has continued.

The pantry grew much faster than anyone ever expected! Then COVID-19 happened and our numbers doubled. We currently serve over 1,800 families a month, which is over 9,000 people a month, and we continue to grow. The girls who started this are now young adults, Many have recently graduated high school and have gone on to college. Some of the founding group still volunteer and one sits on our board. We are expanding our community services and now provide education about food need, and food insecurity. We provide a place people, families and groups, can learn. We also provide community gardens, sponsor Children's Summer Food Program and Thanksgiving box meal. Mostly we provide food once a week for those in need. You're welcome to share in our continuing journey via our Facebook page (Pantry 279) or pantry279.org.

Mother's Day at United Presbyterian Church

It was a beautiful Sunday for our May 11 Mother's Day service. Elder Alejandra Haddad took the pulpit and Elder Jan Berend Heitink served as liturgist. Music Director Benjamin Watkins and members of the UPC Quartet provided music. The sanctuary saw 58 worshipers. Dr. Hadad's sermon, *A Life of Quiet Faithfulness*, focused on the stead-fast, quiet faithfulness of the women of UPC past and present.

A beautiful floral arrangement celebrated the 89th birthday of Alejandra's mother Eugenia Spir, who was at worship with us. Vases of stunning roses in pink, red, blue and yellow were in celebration of today's UPC women and in loving memory of the women of our church who have gone before us. The colors of the roses represented the diversity and personalities of these women. Elders Haddad and Heitink presented each woman present with a rose as they left the sanctuary.

The entire service, sermon, scriptures, music and all, was inspiring and touching. It was followed by a time of refreshments and wonderful fellowship.

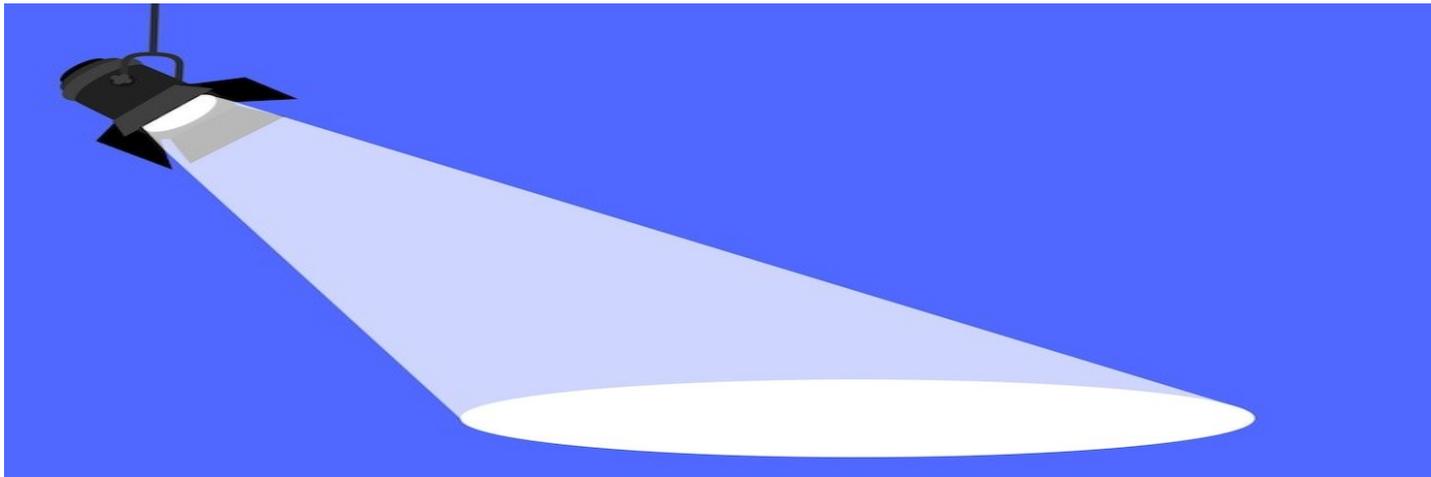


The Spir Family

The Worden Family



The Nyarko Family



LOGAN WORDEN

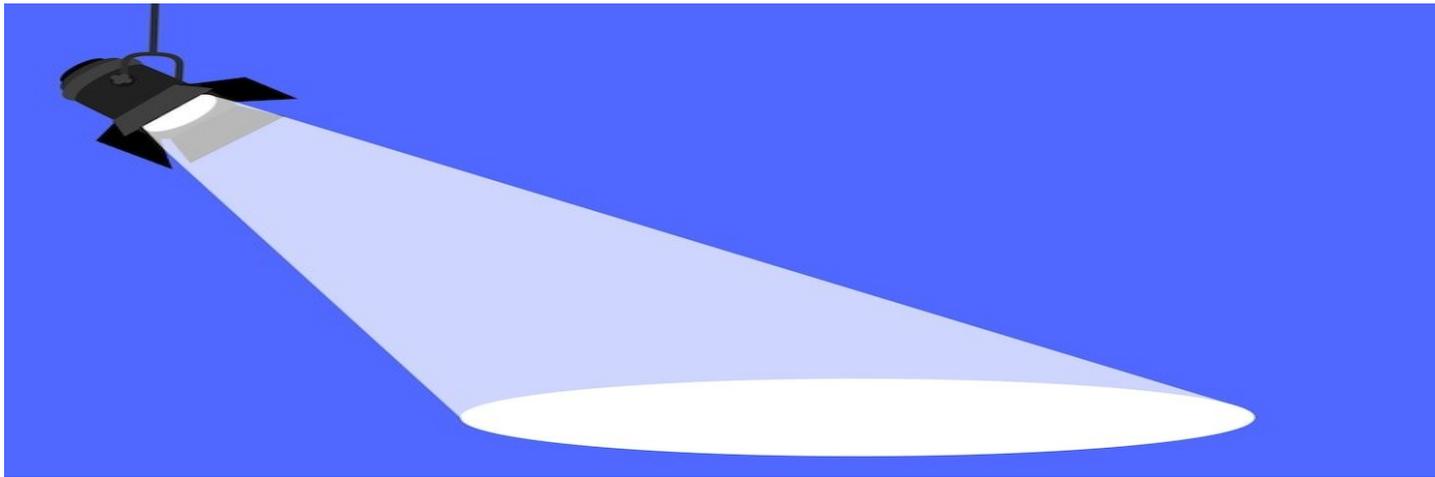
EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

High School

Marching Band - 3 years state champions, 1 year 3rd place
Indoor Percussion - 3 years state champions, 1 year 3rd place
Solo & Ensemble, 1 year silver, 3 years gold (ensembles)
State Solo & Ensemble - 3 years gold (ensembles)
National Honor Society
Aesop Literary Magazine - 1 year

College

University of Tennessee Chattanooga
Majors: Computer Science, Graphic Design



CHRISTABEL NYARKO
INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NEUROSCIENCE
MINOR IN CHEMISTRY

magna cum laude