

Tower Notes

August 2018

**United Protestant Church
(UCC)**

in Morgan Park
830 88th Avenue West
Duluth, MN 55808
218-626-2570

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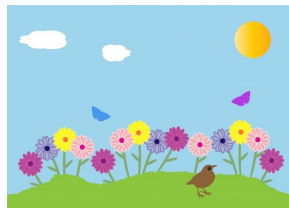
Pastor

Rev. Paul VanAntwerp
218-349-0143
pastor@unitedprotestantchurch.org



**Worship Schedule: Sunday at 10:30 AM
YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US EVERY WEEK**

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|------------------|---|
| August 5 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion, Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| August 12 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| August 19 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| August 26 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |



*Praise ye him, sun and moon;
praise him, all ye stars of light.
Psalm 148:3*

Pastor's Commentary

I promised myself - and God - that when I returned to ministry as a vocation, I would be completely honest and real, and not try to be someone the church wants me to be. To that end, the sermons I've been preaching keep coming back to the ways that a person completely opens up to the presence of God in one's self - as real and honest as ever a person can be. In that spirit, I'll share that I often think things out by writing, and writing is a window into prayer. So here is a (paraphrased) journal entry in my "Pastor's Notes":

I call around to see what the community has planned for National Night Out. The friendly voice coordinating events at the community center welcomes my call and the church's support. "We'll give you a table," she says, "so you can tell the community what you are up to?"

....And I ask myself: what are we up to? Worship has been comfortable, and I've felt free to celebrate and share the presence of God. The people are kind, and welcoming, and supportive. They have shared that they are looking for a guide to help them up and out of the same ol' rhythm - yes - but a guide can't do the walking. The steps are theirs, and their courage to step will come from God inside them, not from the words in the pulpit.

What are we up to? We are nurturing our spiritual flames. We are smiling and singing more than we are knitting our brows and problem solving. We are listening for the presence of God. Now how do we set that on a table at the community center for National Night Out?

My August commentary builds from those thoughts. The theme for National Night Out is the community's history - so it seems. Let's name our place in the history of this community (for instance, did you know that the mayor proclaimed October 5th as "United Protestant Day"? Whatever the motive for such a proclamation, I call it an excuse to have a party!) - let's remember the times of large choirs and noisy Sunday schools and bustling fellowship halls.

Morgan Park often seems to linger on its history, which is well and good - celebrate the roots! But the tree still brings forth fresh green every year and no matter how many people are left - looking back at the town with nostalgia - there are living, breathing souls in each and every one of those company-built homes...and we are their neighbor. We have a neat past, but what about our present? Our future? Here is what I have learned: the kids in this community are in need of a place to go in their free time. The walls of the church are hungry for the reverberations of music. I ask myself: when people pass our building on their way into town, do they look at that strong structure as a place of welcome? A place of support? A good neighbor? A friend?

I often tell people that "a church with locked doors is like a car without wheels - it just doesn't work!" The doors are opened wide over the summer for worship (well, except when the Mayflies hatch)... but the wisdom I seek from all who read this is, "how do we open those doors more often?" God is here, to be certain, but God is there too. "Help us," I pray "to see your presence in our neighbors."

Peace,
Pastor Paul

AROUND UPC

Message from the Moderator

Hello All and Happy Summer!

Thank you to all who have been attending our church services this summer. I know it's always a busy time with so much to do and so little summer to do it in. If you haven't had a chance to make it to a service, please come and hear our new Pastor Paul. He has so much enthusiasm and has been giving us great services!

We didn't have a Council meeting in July, so nothing to report there, but we were asked to be involved with the Morgan Park National Night Out event on August 7. We will have a table set up with some old pictures of the church, cookies & bars, and maybe a suggestion box for folks to indicate things they would like to see our church doing in and with the community. Anyone who would like to be involved please let us know.

Our next Council meeting will be on August 14. If anyone on the Council can't make it, please let your chair know. We need everyone there.

Thanks. See you in church!

Karen Robnik, Moderator

Remember in Prayer

*Bonnie Stasiuk & family. Peter's memorial service was held on July 9 at UP Church.

*Chet Johnson spent some time at St. Luke's Hospital.

*June Bothun fell at home and was hospitalized for a few days. She is now at Ecumen Lakeshore for rehab.

*Sandie Chelstrom has been diagnosed with pneumonia, and is also coping with an eye infection.

*Continue to remember those who are unable to be with us on a regular basis; members, family and friends who are dealing with health problems or surgery; those who grieve; those who have emotional, financial or other hardship; those who are traveling; those who serve our community, country and world.

*If you would like prayer for yourself, family or friends, you may contact Sue Linde, 626-1272, and she will begin the prayer chain.

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Celebrations

*Doris Mattson reached her 90th birthday on July 4! Son Clyde came from Thailand and nephew Roger Field from Aurora, IL to help her celebrate.

*Karen Robnik became great-grandma to a baby girl, Keerynn Erickson, on July 8.

*Jill & Nathan Williamson welcomed baby girl Lainey Lynn on July 12 in Rochester, MN. Grandparents are Dale & Donna Williamson, great-grandma Isabel Davey.

Thank You

*Chet Johnson took 76 pounds to the Food Shelf.

**Bonnie Stasiuk and her family would like to thank everyone for their prayers for her husband Peter during his illness, and for the family upon Peter's recent passing. We also want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who helped with his funeral. The ladies in the kitchen were amazing, from planning and set-up to serving and clean-up. And the touch-ups to the church did not go unnoticed. The care you all took to make sure everything was perfect reflected the love in this congregation, and we will be forever grateful to all of you.*

*Thank you to all who make time in busy lives to keep the church lawn mowed and tend the flower beds, clean the church, keep up with the many repairs that are needed in a 100-year-old building, run errands as needed, set up communion, decorate the sanctuary and fellowship hall for the season, send cards & notes, and are there with willing hands to help with events, whether planned or unexpected.

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MEMORIALS

We have received memorial gifts in memory of Thomas O'Connell and Peter Stasiuk. We thank family and friends for their thoughtfulness.

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Duluth School District SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP) continues through August 24. Breakfast and lunch are provided to all children at no charge and meets nutritional standards established by the USDA. Breakfast: 8-10:30 am Lunch: 11:30 am-1:00 pm Meals include hot entrees, salads, sandwiches, vegetables, fruit, bread, milk and desserts. Adults accompanying children may purchase a meal for \$4.00. Call the Child Nutrition Office at 218-336-8707 with questions.

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2ND ANNUAL GRAND SLAM AT THE WADE
101 N. 35th Avenue W.

Salvation Army Carnival Fundraiser

Tuesday, August 28

5 - 8 pm

\$3 for individuals, \$5 for families

Includes silent auction, dunk tank, bounce houses, climbing wall, face painting, best dressed dog contest, music by Todd Eckart, classic cars, and more.....

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2018 Financial Report – year to date (7/31/18)



Income: \$ 29,949

Expenses: 26,804

Difference: \$ + 3,145

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office 10-2	2	3 Office 10-2	4
5 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	6	7 National Neighborhood Night Out 4:00-8:00 pm Morgan Park Community Club	8 Office 10-2	9	10 Office 10-2	11
12 Worship 10:30	13	14 Council 7:30 Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm	15 Office 10-2	16	17 Office 10-2	18
19 Worship 10:30 Fuel Fund	20	21	22 Office 10-2	23	24 Office 10-2	25 Ruby's Pantry Mission Creek Church 11 am
26 Worship 10:30	27	28	29 Office 10-2	30	31 Office 10-2	Sept 1
2 Worship 10:30 Communion Food Shelf Fuel Fund	3 Labor Day 	4	5 Office 10-2 Women's Fellowship 1:30 pm	6	7 Office 10-2	8
9 Worship 10:30	10	11 Council 7:30 Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm	12 Office 10-2	13	14 Office 10-2	15

Coming Up in August

- August 4 *Norton Park United Methodist Church Western Garden Tour & Continental Breakfast - breakfast 9-11, self-guided garden tour 9:30-2:30. \$10 at the door. For information, call 218-590-1964.
- August 5 *Communion, Food Shelf, Fuel Fund
- August 14 *Council Meeting 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- August 19 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- August 25 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- August 28 *Grand Slam at the Wade carnival fundraiser, 5-8 pm

Looking Ahead to September

- September 2 *Communion, Food Shelf, Fuel Fund
- September 3 *Labor Day
- September 5 *Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- September 11 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- September 16 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- September 22 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
*First Day of Autumn

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WANTED! Gently used, comfortable furniture to sit in for small groups and conversations at the Church. (Metal folding chairs are efficient, but don't always lend themselves to thoughtful conversation.) Contact Pastor Paul with thoughts or questions.

Wednesday Evening: "Bring it to the Table", 6 pm, Iron Mug

You are invited to the Iron Mug on Wednesday evenings, 6 pm, for conversation and fellowship. What we talk about depends on what thoughts you bring to the table! C'mon over and let us treat you to some good food and conversation. Need a ride? Call the church or Pastor Paul.

MUSIC!

Sing a note? Strum a chord? The walls of this church are longing for the sound of music! If you, or anybody you know, can contribute to Sunday's worship, we would love to have you! From accordions to zithers, we welcome your song into worship. Contact Pastor Paul. (Note: you don't have to be an expert musician! - after all, we let our Pastor sing out loud!)



August Birthdays

1 Eric Robert Fredrickson	1 Florence Strandberg	2 Caleb Lustig
7 Joshua Nickila	8 Terry Therrell	9 Wendi Huberty
9 Jeri Erickson	10 Peter Bagley	11 Faye Hietala
17 Christopher Moran	18 Mike Fasteland	19 Lily Lambert
22 Kathy Behm	26 Alan J. Nickila	30 Jane Rapaich
31 Luke Lambert		

August Anniversaries

14 Debbie & Terry Therrell	20 Donna & Dale Williamson
22 Kathy & Kevin Behm	25 Lynn & Elliot Zunich
27 Julie & Jim Lowe	28 Marna & Mike Fasteland
29 Mary Beth & Gary Merila	

Learn more at facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch

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United Protestant Church Vision Statement

The United Protestant Church aspires to be a vibrant Christian congregation that is sustainable and welcoming to all, putting its faith into practice through its outreach activities. The church strives to be the center of the community's mind, body and spirit through its ministries and the programs it offers.

August 2018

*100 Years
1917 - 2017*

*O Lord, how manifold are Thy works!
In wisdom hast Thou made them all:
the earth is full of Thy riches*

Psalm 104:24



