

Tower Notes

September 2018

**United Protestant Church
(UCC)**

in Morgan Park
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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

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| September 2 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion, Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| September 9 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| September 16 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| September 23 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| September 30 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |



Pastor's Commentary

September 2018

Sometimes it just sticks...an idea in theology that I am able to retain better than the rest of them - an analogy or metaphor that seems to fit like my favorite pair of shoes. Those moments are sweet. ...And I've had a few of you say that you have received them from my sermons. Every time I hear that, I feel honored.

Here's mine: one of my professors, Dr. Eleazar Fernandez, used the analogy that a church is like a fire with a burning center and porous borders (and here I paraphrase greatly - I let a friend borrow the book some time ago and...well, you know how some friends are with borrowed things). For our church, I'll use the word "campfire": it has a burning center, but it has porous borders. Both are needed to make a fire thrive. Put another way: if you don't have both of those, the s'mores won't taste very good.

Well, as I'm sure you know, the burning center of our fire is our faith - the Holy Spirit at work within us - each uniquely, as well as collectively. This is the center of everything we do. But even the hottest flame requires porous borders, to let the air of the world in.

Since I last wrote to you here, these two aspects of church are the work that I've been called to do. I'll do my best to nurture the flame here - and I hope your heart has been warmed by our worship and study and fellowship.

But also, I have been so happily surprised to receive a warm welcome from the Morgan Park community outside of these walls...our neighbors. Many of you know the people I have had the great fortune to meet this month: neighbors with a wisdom and history of the town, neighbors with a deep and sincere care about the children in this community, neighbors who open their places of business for welcome and community (I could go on and on but I only have a page here) - and I can't forget to mention the wonderful gifts and wisdom I have discovered humbly tucked inside the people I have met, both in the church and around the town.

When people feel empowered to nurture their own gifts, and share them with others, I start to wag my tail like an energetic puppy. These are acts of opening the doors of the church...of creating space for the air to flow and the fire to burn.

We also have people tending to the fire: people clearing out years of ash and soot that run the risk of stifling the coals, people hungry to add fuel to the fire, people living their faith beyond the abstract - into their hands...into their hearts.

So thank you.

And until someone tells me otherwise, I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing and sharing my stories along the way.

So too do we have these people in our private lives. In a time of life transitions (new jobs, new experiences, new daily routine) I give thanks for the people in my life that look me in the eyes and ask me how I am doing. As I've said before, I've promised in this chapter of my life to be completely real and sincere to everyone I meet, and to know that I can be so, with people I respect, have been crucial to my development as a whole person.

So thanks, friends. At the church, in the community, in the conversations along the way, in the caretakers. Thank you to the workers and the thinkers and the singers and the prayer...so many beautiful prayers...for us.

...And thanks Dr. Fernandez. I'll honor your theology in a more thorough way when I get a copy of your book again.

Warm by the fire,
Pastor Paul

AROUND UPC

Message from the Moderator

Hello All

I hope everyone had a great summer! It always goes too fast but we have lots of things to look forward to with the coming of fall and winter.

The Council met on August 14, and it was the first meeting with Pastor Paul in attendance. Since there wasn't a meeting in July, there were a few more things on the agenda than usual.

1. The annual picnic will be combined with Pastor Paul's installation service and is scheduled for October 7.
2. We have a date set for a church shower and that will be September 16. A list of needed items will be available.
3. We also have a fall bazaar and Halloween carnival coming up this fall. Dates to be announced.
4. I've talked to Ron with the Highland Quartet. They weren't available for a Sunday, so we've agreed on Saturday, December 15, at 2:00 pm for the Christmas Concert.
5. We have the month of September covered for serving goodies after church. Please know that most of the time the members of the Council have been bringing goodies, but it would be really nice for others to help us out with that. The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

We've been doing the Wednesday "Bring it to the Table" times at the Iron Mug and having a lot of fun. It's an informal gathering of folks talking about what they want to talk about. We're there for a couple of hours, enjoying the outdoors when it's nice, or inside when the weather's not so nice. Come join us if you can.

See you in church!

Karen Robnik, Moderator

Remember in Prayer

*June Bothun is now residing at River Hill Assisted Living in Gary New Duluth.

*Faye Hietala's sister-in-law, Betty Hietala, is ill with aggressive cancer.

*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.

Congratulations

*Abbie Huberty graduated from Denfeld High School in June. Her parents are Wendi & Dave Huberty, and grandmother is Claudia Nickila.

Memorials

A gift of money has been given in memory of Ron Benson, who passed away August 2, 2012. A family friend has sent UP Church a memorial each year in Ron's name. We thank her for her kindness.

Thank You

*Julie & Jim Lowe donated a garden hose to replace the hose that was stolen from the church yard.

*Sandie Chelstrom donated a vacuum cleaner.

*Thanks to all who helped with a table at National Night Out at the Morgan Park Community Center on August 7 by collecting photos & memorabilia, bringing treats, and representing UPC.

*The backpack drive at Iron Mug was so successful that they extended the drive for an additional week. Thanks to all who contributed school supplies.

*Thank you to all who - when they see something needs tending - clean, neaten, straighten, sweep/shovel, weed, paint; the list is endless.

A "Declutter Committee" has been formed to go through the many storage cupboards and closets to sort, clean, recycle, discard..... All who are interested are welcome to come help on Thursdays at 10:30 am.

CHANGE IN MEETING DATE:

Please note that Women's Fellowship will meet on TUESDAY, September 4, at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to attend.

SHOWER FOR THE CHURCH: September 16

A wish list of items is posted in the Fellowship Hall. Think of the church when you are shopping and pick up an extra can of coffee, a pack of paper towels, a case of water or pop.

BIBLE STUDY



Pastor Paul is leading a Bible study on Mondays at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend and bring your thoughts and questions.

2018 Financial Report – year to date (8/31/18)

Income:	\$ 33,403
Expenses:	<u>30,922</u>
Difference:	\$ + 2,481

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	3 Labor Day	4 Women's Fellowship 1:30 pm (note change in date)	5 Office 10-2	6	7 Office 10-2	8
9 Worship 10:30 Morgan Park All Class Reunion	10	11 Council 7:30 Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm	12 Office 10-2	13	14 Office 10-2	15
16 Worship 10:30 Fuel Fund Shower for the Church	17	18	19 Office 10-2	20	21 Office 10-2	22 Ruby's Pantry Mission Creek Church 11 am
23 Worship 10:30	24	25	26 Office 10-2	27	28 Office 10-2	29
30 Worship 10:30	Oct 1 	2	3 Office 10-2 Women's Fellowship 1:30 pm	4	5 Office 10-2	6
7 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf Pastor Paul's installation Pot luck	8 Columbus Day	9 Council 7:30 Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm	10 Office 10-2	11	12 Office 10-2	13

Coming Up in September

- September 2 *Communion, Food Shelf, Fuel Fund
- September 3 *Labor Day
- September 4 *Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- September 9 *Morgan Park All Class Reunion
- September 11 *Council Meeting 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- September 16 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
*Shower for the Church
- September 22 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
*First Day of Autumn

Looking Ahead to October

- October 3 *Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- October 7 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
*Pastor Paul's Installation Service, potluck
- October 8 *Columbus Day
- October 9 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- October 21 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- October 27 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- October 31 *Halloween

Upcoming Events - watch for more information

- October 27: Halloween Carnival
- November 10: Fall Bazaar
- December 1: Breakfast with Santa - Morgan Park Community Club
- December 15: Bill Bastian & the Highland Quartet

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

You are invited to the Iron Mug on Wednesday evenings 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.

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.

MUSIC! Sing? Strum a chord? If you, or anybody you know, can contribute to Sunday worship, we would love to have you. From accordions to zithers, we welcome your song into worship. Contact Pastor Paul.



September Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Christine Parenteau | 2 Leah Blevins | 3 Brian Fredrickson |
| 7 Jamie Merila | 8 Joyce Hollingsworth | 9 Jack Stevens |
| 10 Crystal O'Connell Leal | 16 Carrie Lustig | 18 Arlyne Moore |
| 18 John Toman Sr. | 19 Gary Merila | 21 Isabel Davey |
| 22 Deborah Therrell | 27 Bill Dale | 30 Karen Wickner |

September Anniversaries

- 6 Beth & Brian Fredrickson

Learn more at facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch

United Protestant Church UCC

830 88th Avenue W.

Duluth, MN 55808

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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.

September 2018

*100 Years
1917 - 2017*

*For the Lord your God
will bless you in all your harvest
and in all the work of your hands,
and your JOY will be complete.*

Deuteronomy 16:15



