



Tower Notes

February 2019

**United Protestant Church
(UCC)**

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

office@unitedprotestantchurch.org
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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

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| February 3 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion, Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| February 10 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| February 17 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| February 24 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |



The following messages were prepared by Pastor and Moderator for the Annual Meeting.

Pastor's Commentary

Just like the prayers we share in a group, it is good practice to begin with gratitude. I want to thank the people of this church for welcoming me into your community as pastor and friend. Thank you for supporting my growth, and my transitions, both as a minister and as a human being.

I don't see this report as a place that I should focus on specific measures of success, as each of us might define a church as "thriving" by unique criteria. Do we measure success by the number of bodies in the pews? By souls having increased engagement with the Holy? Financial bottom-lines? Community reputation? People's opinion of the Pastor? (hope not!)

So let me offer this measure—my measure of success as a minister:

Are my hopes and dreams for this community of faith recognized and reciprocated by the people I have the privilege to serve?

So friends, here they are, roughly lumped into three categories:

Empower our Faith – encourage all members and visitors to engage their own relationship with God and determine God's call uniquely for themselves, and to create a culture of, and spaces for, free expression of curiosity, wonder, and response. (In other words: that we feel free to engage our faith, have the space and sense of safety to do so, and don't just "go through the motions" as so many generations of church-goers have before us.)

Think in Hope and Abundance – develop healthy policy and polity that equips us to easily adjust to new growth in members and missions. This includes thinking like a growing church (not a "coping" church), and functioning like a community (as a team, not as individuals). Or, as the quote on the office computer reads: "don't let yesterday take up too much of today."

Open our Doors --reaching out to our community as a neighbor and a friend. Making our faces recognized, and making visitors or curious on-lookers aware that we are as friendly and welcoming as we say in our gestures and literature. You're probably sick of me saying this but "a church with locked doors is like a car without wheels. It just doesn't work!"

All of these are in play in our recent ministry activities:

Lectionary Bible Study and Conversation; "Bring it to the Table" Time of Fellowship; Wednesday Evening Time of Prayer, Music, and Sacred Conversation; engagement at monthly community meetings; National Night Out; Caroling and Pizza Party; Easter Breakfast; Spaghetti Dinner; Morgan Park 5K Walk/Run; Halloween Carnival; Fall Bazaar; Christmas Concert; Women's Fellowship; Declutter Committee; Holiday Decorating Party... did I miss any? I'm sure I did. Please add those here.

A few additional thoughts:

1. I will never be able to thank everyone for all of the great work done on behalf of the church. If I failed to mention your specific labor or ministry, it was not intentional.
2. I do feel concerned that a number of people in governing roles at the church are not there to witness the growth of spirit and missional engagement present in our activities and worship on a weekly basis. This leads me to wonder if those people are able to witness and appreciate the new things that God is doing in our midst (and respond as leaders accordingly). It would be my hope that our leaders would participate in the weekly life of the church.
3. The list of hopes and ideas I would like to share for our future is immense. I would love to share them all with you in the proper time and place. Whether these suggestions come from individuals in the church, or from my experience and study as a minister, all merit careful, communal consideration and conversation—far more than our council has the capacity to discuss once a month for a couple of hours. I will be calling together people with specific interests or experience to more carefully discuss these things (in a lens of hope and growth and response to God's call) as the year progresses. Contrary to common belief, these deliberate conversations actually save time and energy for participants in church life as a whole, and certainly alleviate the inter-personal conflicts that arise when people act on behalf of the church in an individualist manner. (Again, we are thinking like a growing church...no more "flying solo").
4. My door is open, my contact information available. Sharing YOUR faith, your joys and concerns, your questions and testimonies and life experience—is my most important role here. I listen as well as I talk.

It is my honor to serve you,
Rev. Paul VanAntwerp

Moderator's Message

We started out this past year in transition. Our pastor Jon had taken a new position and we were left looking for a pastor once again. The search and call committee had a very difficult job to do. I was on the committee after Peter Bagley left us and I know it's a very time consuming, exhausting job. They first worked on supplying us with pulpit supply through Easter, alternating between Reverend Sara Lund and Reverend Cherie Daniel. After that they continued to interview prospects for us. It became clear to them that the person for us would be Reverend Paul VanAntwerp. The congregation voted to accept him as our pastor at the congregational meeting on June 24th. Pastor Paul has been a very good fit for us, with new ideas and lots of energy. We are so lucky and happy to have him with us.

A few things that happened this past year were the remounting of the speakers in the Sanctuary to improve the ability to hear what was being said, a new phone line installed to help improve the speed of the internet connection, and the old heavy tables in the dining hall were replaced with new round and rectangular lightweight tables. A declutter committee was also organized. They have been hard at work cleaning up and clearing out some of the unused items we had collected. Thank you to them for taking this on.

It has been a quest of mine to improve our presence in Morgan Park. With that said, I'm very happy that Pastor Paul, Linda Rominger, myself and others have made a strong effort to attend the Morgan Park community meeting and become involved with events in the community. One of the events we were involved in was the Christmas caroling through Morgan Park which started out with hot chocolate and cookies at Good Hope church, then caroling through the Park and ending with pizza and sodas in our church. It was a great event and I'm sure there will be more things like this in the future.

I have a really good feeling that our church is building in the community again. It takes work and commitment, but our community here in Morgan Park needs us.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this past year a very good one for United Protestant Church in Morgan Park.

Respectfully Submitted
Karen Robnik, Moderator

AROUND UPC

Remember in Prayer

*Dave & Wendi Huberty & family on the passing of Dave's mother, Shirley Huberty Spearin.

*Terry Therrell underwent bypass surgery on January 14. After a stay at Lakeshore he is to go home on February 2.

*Jack Stevens passed away on January 18. A memorial service is planned for February 19.

*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 our 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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Welcome!

Susan Kolberg, Robin Williams, Paula & Ernie St. George, Hanna Johnson and Devan Browley were welcomed as new members to UPC on January 20.

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2019 Financial Report – year to date (1/31/19)	
Income:	\$ 3,886
Expenses:	<u>5,189</u>
Difference:	\$ - 1,303

Thank You

*A sincere thank you to Ed & Arlene Leese of Virginia, MN for their continued support of UP Church.

*Thank you to all who braved the cold and came out for the Annual Meeting on January 27 to help conduct the church's business, and to enjoy the potluck following.

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Memorials

Gifts of money have been received in memory of Jack Stevens. Our thanks to his friends for their kindness.

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Mark your calendar!

These events will be coming up soon and you don't want to miss them:

March 31: Olive Garden Spaghetti Dinner, 12 Noon

April 21: Easter Breakfast - served by the men of the church at 9:00 am

May: Tentatively planned Rummage Sale. Watch for more details.

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COMMUNITY MEAL at the Church!

Thursday, February 28 (4th Thursday), 5:30 pm
Let's invite all neighbors and friends! Bring a dish to share if you can, but this event is free to all. We'll also have music to follow the meal (details TBA).
Questions? Contact Pastor Paul.

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office 10-2	2
3 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	4 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	5	6 Office 10-2 Prayer/Music 5:30 pm Bring it to the Table 6 pm	7	8 Office 10-2	9
10 Worship 10:30	11 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	12 Council 7:30 Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm	13 Office 10-2 Prayer/Music 5:30 pm Bring it to the Table 6 pm	14 Valentine's Day Choir 6 pm	15 Office 10-2	16
17 Worship 10:30 Fuel Fund	18 Presidents' Day Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	19	20 Office 10-2 Prayer/Music 5:30 pm Bring it to the Table 6 pm	21	22 Office 10-2	23 Ruby's Pantry 11:00 am
24 Worship 10:30	25 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	26	27 Office 10-2 Prayer/Music 5:30 pm Bring it to the Table 6 pm	28 Community Meal 5:30 pm Choir 6 pm	March 1 Office 10-2	2
3 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	4 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	5	6 Office 10-2 Prayer/Music 5:30 pm Bring it to the Table 6 pm	7	8 Office 10-2	9
10 Worship 10:30 Daylight Saving Time begins 2 am	11 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	12 Council 7:30 Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm	13 Office 10-2 Prayer/Music 5:30 pm Bring it to the Table 6 pm	14 Choir 6 pm	15 Office 10-2	16

Coming Up in February

- February 3 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- February 12 *Council Meeting 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- February 14 *Valentine's Day
- February 17 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- February 18 *Presidents' Day
- February 23 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- February 28 *Community Meal, 5:30 pm

Looking Ahead to March

- March 3 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- March 6 *Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- March 10 *Daylight Saving Time begins, 2:00 am
- March 12 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- March 17 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- *St. Patrick's Day
- March 23 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- March 31 *Olive Garden Spaghetti Dinner, 12 Noon

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### **Monday: 6 pm Bible Study: The Week Ahead**

Join Pastor Paul at the church as we explore our Lectionary scripture for the upcoming week. Come prepared to hear more questions than answers, and to share the stories of our walk of faith as God reaches out to us this week.

### **Wednesday Evening Time of Prayer & Sharing: 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary**

We welcome you to gather at the church on Wednesdays for a mid-week calming time of prayer, music and conversation led by Pastor Paul (with music by Jim Larson and his Appalachian Dulcimer).

### **Wednesday: 6:00 pm "Bring it to the Table" at the Iron Mug**

Join us for a time of fellowship with church and community. 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.

### **Thursday (2nd & 4th): 6-7 pm Choir Practice**

No experience required - All skill levels welcome! Just bring your desire to sing (and a song you'd like to share if you have one!).

Church Contact List: Please let us know if you have a new home address, phone number or email address, so we have up-to-date information.



### February Birthdays

- |                   |                     |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 7 Cari Elliot     | 12 Greyson Conito   | 18 Mary Jo Nickila  |
| 19 Amber Erickson | 20 Keith Erickson   | 21 John Nickila Jr. |
| 25 Karen Moe      | 27 Scott Herrington |                     |

### February Anniversaries

- 12 Sue & Dick Linde

## **United Protestant Church UCC**

830 88th Avenue W.

Duluth, MN 55808

[unitedprotestantchurch.org](http://unitedprotestantchurch.org)



### ***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.*

*February 2019*

*100 Years  
1917 - 2017*

*Let us practice loving each other,  
for love comes from God....*

1 John 4:7

