

Tower Notes

April 2019

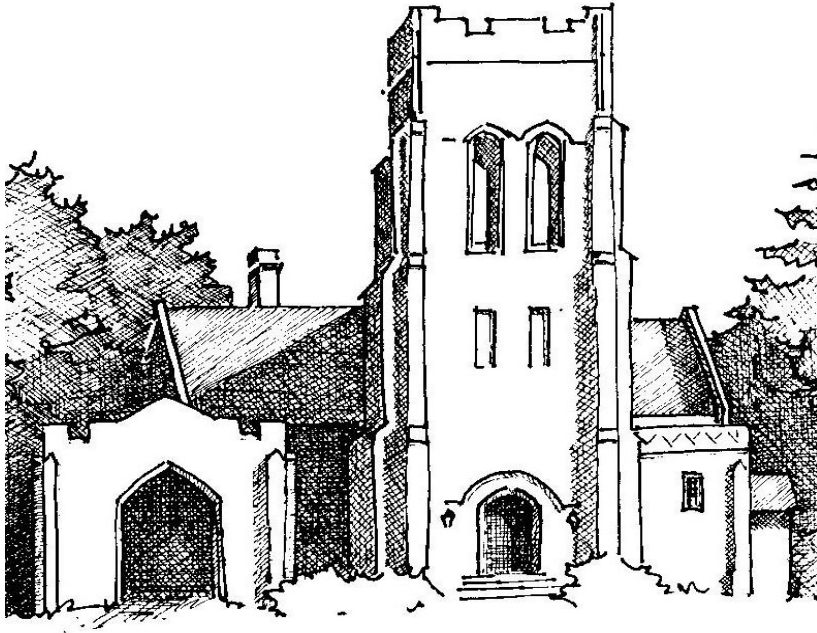
**United Protestant Church
(UCC)**

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Pastor

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| April 7 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion, Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| April 14 | Palm Sunday
Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| April 21 | Easter Sunday
Breakfast - 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| April 28 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |



Pastor's Commentary

As you read this, I'll most likely be on my way south. I'm taking the kiddos down to Georgia for a week on the beach and some quality time together. I'm a little late on the "escape winter" plan—but such is the schedule of Spring Break at the local schools. This also means that I'll be returning to the church just in time for Palm Sunday—the day where our story gets the most intense—the day Jesus enters into Jerusalem. Holy week. The Passion. Crucifixion, Wonder, and Resurrection. It is the biggest week for a Pastor, and we'll be offering opportunities to be together on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as well as Easter. ... We arrive at Easter, but we can't really appreciate it until we know all that it took to get there.

And I want us all to appreciate it fully. See, I'm fond of saying that we are a people called to live into Resurrection—here and now in our present world. We are called to mend brokenness and divisiveness. We are called to remind our world that anger and violence are not the last word and never result in the "amen" we seek. We are called to live into the life and ministry of Jesus, here and now, even as we know heaven to come. In short, we are called to help this world, as well as ourselves, to be healthy and thrive, as people of Resurrection.

Off-balance on that goal a bit? A little worn-out from winter? It doesn't take a trip to a beach to rejuvenate. Let me share a little practice I do that keeps me on the right path: I call it my "daily review". Every day, I look back on the past 24 hours, and look at my life from four perspectives: Physical, Mental, Spiritual, and Aesthetic. In other words: 1. Have I given love and care to my body? (Did I eat healthy? Exercise? Is my body feeling healthy?) 2. Have I given love and care to my mind? (Did I read or write or do anything else that will keep my mind active and awake? Does my mind feel healthy?) 3. Have I taken time to connect with God (have I been in prayer or contemplation or conversation? Have I been aware of God's presence?) and 4. Have I experienced anything today that I could describe as beautiful? (Nature or music or art or friendship or an act of kindness, just to name a few!)

—Yes, I know, "Pastor Paul is prone to tangents"—but, see, I've often found that times when I have been less "resurrection-minded" than I want to be—times when I'm crabby or curt or anxious or weary, tend to be the times when one or more of those four things have been left unattended for too long.

Sure, I don't do them all perfectly every day, but it helps to keep me from falling into bad habits and behaving less than the Christian God calls me to be. (So... if I spend one day sitting on the couch gobbling down snack chips watching sports... no problem—but I make a note to do things a little differently the next day.)

So as you read the rest of this newsletter, think of the ministries and activities that are underway here at the U.P. Church, and how they might contribute to the "living into resurrection" of yourself, and the world around you. And do me a favor: send a note or give a call, and let us know where you are hearing "Amen!"

In God's Love,
Pastor Paul



Message from the Moderator

Hello to all!

Spring is here, and last night into early this morning, we had a thunder storm in progress. I woke up to a sound that I couldn't identify until I looked out the window and realized it was raining with thunder and lightning going on. Oh, spring in the northland is so unpredictable. I've also been noticing with the snow melting that my yard is a total mess. Spring cleaning this year will also include my yard.

Some of the things discussed this month at our Council meeting were: the upcoming Olive Garden spaghetti dinner and the need for help getting signs up; the need for getting a contact list put together; the upcoming Easter service and breakfast; the rummage sale set for May 11, and tracking down keys for our church. Paul talked about a list that he put together to help us identify the areas of focus that we're interested in supporting this year. Stay tuned on how we can accomplish this. I've probably missed some things, but, as you can see, we were busy.

Hope to see you all at the Olive Garden spaghetti dinner and all the Easter activity, including Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter breakfast and Easter service.

See you in church.
Karen Robnik, Moderator

AROUND UPC

Remember in Prayer

- *Leah Blevins has been experiencing health issues.
- *Jackie Hietala underwent emergency surgery on Mar. 17.
- *Terry Therrell, June Bothun, Kevin Behm, Donna Linde
- *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.

Easter Memorials

Please give Marna Fasteland your order for a lily (\$10) or line memorial (\$5) by April 14 (phone 384-9872). Make checks payable to Marna. Lilies may be taken home after Easter service on April 21.

NOTE: Choir will practice every Thursday at 6:00 pm through Lent. All people who like to sing are welcome to join in.

Easter Breakfast

The men of the church will prepare and serve breakfast on Easter Sunday at 9:00 am. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy breakfast and fellowship.

Congratulations

- **Elloree Raine was born to Heather & Kevin Conito on February 22 in Rochester, MN. Grandparents are Dale & Donna Williamson, great-grandmother is Isabel Davey.
- **Jane Moran received "Sister Claudia" legacy award for her work with young children at Benedictine.

Memorials

A gift of money has been received in memory of Peter Stasiuk, who passed away on June 28, 2018. Our thanks to his friends for their thoughtfulness.

Thank You!

- *Thanks to all who came out to help cook and put on the soup supper on February 28.
- *A sincere thank you to everyone who helped with our successful Olive Garden Spaghetti dinner on March 31. The kitchen crew, dessert workers, decorators and set-up/clean-up people were awesome, as were those who made new posts and put up the signage in the frozen ground. Grateful thanks to those who worked with Olive Garden for the sauce, salad dressing & breadsticks, those who brought meatballs, spaghetti & salad makings, drinks, and the fantastic desserts. It was all delicious! Guitar music and vocals provided by Beth & Les Hazelton was extra-special and very much enjoyed by all.

2019 Financial Report – year to date (3/31/19)	
Income:	\$ 13,288
Expenses:	16,759
Difference:	\$ - 3,468

The UP Church Pastoral Relations Committee met recently and will meet periodically to visit about our Ministry at UP Church. The committee is made up of Pastor Paul, Kevin Behm, Marna Fasteland, and Dale Williamson. Please feel free to contact any of these folks to share your perspectives on the programs and activities at our church.

Bakeless Bake Sale

Women's Fellowship is collecting donations for the Bakeless Bake Sale until June 1. Make checks payable to Women's Fellowship and return to Doris Toman or Char Marich, or simply drop the envelope in the collection plate. Your support is very appreciated.

Mark your calendar!

These events are coming soon:

- May 11: Rummage & Bake Sale, 8 am-1 pm**, coffee bar and coney's for lunch. Credit cards accepted. It's not too soon to start spring cleaning of closets, cupboards, basements. Clean, gently used items, including clothing, will be accepted for the sale. Watch for more details.
- June 2: Morgan Park 5K Run/2.5K Walk, 4:30 pm** Eve Graves has begun coordination of this event. There will be raffle, bake sale, coney's again this year.

KITCHEN FUN!

If you are a person that believes those two words go together - and that gathering with friends in our kitchen for creative cooking sounds fun - let us know! We had a great time making doughnuts, and we're interested in other adventures. Contact Pastor Paul if interested.

LIBRARY/STUDY RENOVATION

You'll notice some changes in our library space. We are working on clearing our library - and sending books we don't need to better homes! (Before any books leave the church, we'll be offering them to the congregation.) Then we'll be bringing in comfortable couches and chairs to create a comfortable small group gathering space. We'd love your input!

MONDAY LECTIONARY STUDY


Every Monday at 6pm, Pastor Paul welcomes you to join him in the first look at the Lectionary texts for the following Sunday. This is a time for questions and conversation in our lives of faith - and your participation greatly assists in creating a meaningful sermon on Sunday. Join us!

SUMMER LOVIN'!

It's been a long winter - let's welcome Summer with beautiful gardens and summer picnics. We'll be creating a "Monarch Waystation" garden on our grounds with milkweed and pollinator plants, and Pastor Paul would like to host weekly picnics with a grill at the ready, lawn chairs and lawn games. Interested? Let us know!

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Office 10-2 Women's Fellowship 1:30 pm Bring it to Table 6 pm	4 Choir 6 pm	5 Office 10-2	6
7 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	8 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	9 Council 7:30 Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm	10 Office 10-2 Bring it to the Table 6 pm	11 Choir 6 pm	12 Office 10-2	13
14 Worship 10:30 Palm Sunday	15 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	16	17 Office 10-2 Bring it to the Table 6 pm	18 Maundy Thursday gathering 6 pm	19 Office 10-2 Good Friday Service 6 pm	20 
21 Easter Breakfast 9 am Worship 10:30 Fuel Fund	22 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	23	24 Office 10-2 Bring it to the Table 6 pm	25 Choir 6 pm	26 Office 10-2	27 Ruby's Pantry 11:00 am
28 Worship 10:30	29 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	30 	May 1 Office 10-2 Women's Fellowship 1:30 pm Bring it to Table 6 pm	2	3 Office 10-2	4
5 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	6 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	7	8 Office 10-2 Bring it to the Table 6 pm	9 Choir 6 pm	10 Office 10-2	11 Rummage & Bake Sale
12 Worship 10:30 Mother's Day	13 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	14 Council 7:30 Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm	15 Office 10-2 Bring it to the Table 6 pm	16	17 Office 10-2	18

Coming Up in April

- April 3 *Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- April 7 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- April 9 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- April 14 *Palm Sunday
- April 15 *Tax Day
- April 16 *Asbury Spring Meatball Dinner, 4:30-6:30 pm, \$10.00, take out available
- April 18 *Maundy Thursday gathering, 6:00 pm
- April 19 *Good Friday Service, 6:00 pm
- April 21 *Easter - Breakfast at 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall
Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- April 27 *Asbury Spring Rummage Sale, 8 am-1 pm, 624-0061
*Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm

Looking Ahead to May

- May 1 *Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- May 5 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- May 11 *Rummage Sale, 8 am - 1 pm, bake sale, coffee bar, coney
- May 12 *Mother's Day
- May 14 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- May 19 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- May 25 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- May 27 *Memorial Day

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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: 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): 6:30 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.



April Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 5 | Kari Rengo | 9 | Russ Francisco | 10 | Jim Blevins |
| 12 | Charlotte Caywood | 16 | Jennifer Lowe | 22 | Carter Rengo |
| 23 | Abbie Marie Huberty | 25 | Larry Moline | 26 | Claudia Nickila |
| 29 | Elle Fasteland | | | | |

April Anniversaries

- 18 Kari & Jason Rengo

Learn more at facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch

United Protestant Church UCC

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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.

April 2019

*100 Years
1917 - 2017*

*He is not here
for He is risen
just as He said*

Matthew 28:6



