

Tower Notes

March 2019

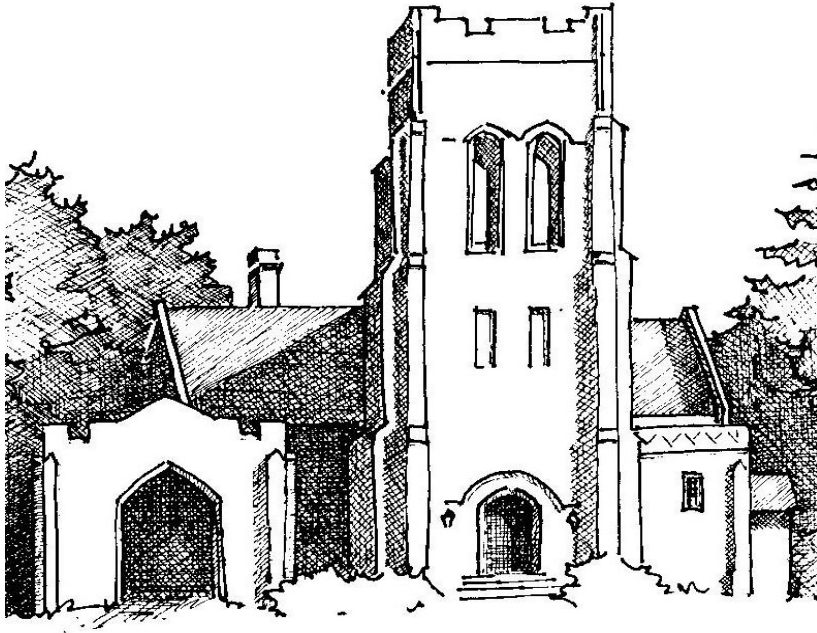
**United Protestant Church
(UCC)**

in Morgan Park
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Pastor

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| March 3 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion, Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| March 10 | Daylight Saving Time begins 2:00 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| March 17 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| March 24 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| March 31 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |

*For see, the Winter is past,
the rains are over and gone...
Song of Songs 2:11*

Pastor's Commentary

We turn now, in our Christian story, from the wide-eyed “Holy dope-slap” of Epiphany to the increasingly brow-knitted vision of Jerusalem on the horizon...and Calvary Hill... and the cross....

Lent.

Yes, I know, we have little palate left for anything dark, or challenging, or having the potential of giving us “chills”—here as the snowdrifts pile up and the roads are icy and the sidewalks and alleys... well, let's not even talk about those!

But here we are...and here's my advice: Find the light. Gather with others. Laugh. Play music. Sing. Tell stories. Eat well. Dance. Exercise. Bake cookies. Get a creative haircut or choose to dress in bright colors or paint your toenails or...(you can add your own idea here, but I think you get the theme).

See... it may not be our tradition to approach Lent this way, but it struck me this week that if our motive is to “prepare for the Passion” we should be wide-eyed and ready, not weary and half-asleep. And here in this late-winter season of our lives, perhaps the addition of something to lift us up and warm us from the thaw of a doozy-of-a-winter would be more effective than any traditional withholding or sacrifice we might be accustomed to. Make sense?

Recently, a group in the church made doughnuts (the ugly ones were mine), and we laughed a lot and ate sweet goodness. And (as I write this) we'll soon be cooking soup and welcoming the community and having a meal and some smiles and laughter and song. I'm thinking that in light of our winter, these are perfectly perfect ways to welcome the amazing story of our faith, welcome the love and the sacrifice and the sorrow... and ultimately, God's resounding “yes” to life.

In short: dive in. Need a ride? Give a call and I'll pick you up (my car is kind of messy from kiddos and dog and lots of outdoor meanders, but I think you'll forgive me). Take the steps forward toward God's “yes” that you believe in—steps that say “cold and dark and ice do not have the last word in my life, nor my faith, nor my God.”

Together, living into God's “Yes”,

Pastor Paul

Message from the Moderator

Hello All

I think everyone is as tired of this long winter as I am, with the below 0 temps, blizzard conditions and everlasting snow! But on the bright side, I've had more time for doing puzzles and reading, both of which I really enjoy with no guilt for taking the time for either of my pleasures. Too cold to do anything else!!

We are excited about the new event taking place on February 28th at our church. A free meal with music after will be available to all. We are hoping that the Morgan Park community will take advantage of our offering and come to enjoy homemade chicken soup, bread, sides and dessert. Also, our Olive Garden spaghetti dinner is set for March 31st. Cost will be \$10.00 for adults which is the same as last year. Credit cards will be taken as well as cash or checks. We will be looking for help with that event. Please see the signup sheet by the church kitchen doorway.

It has been great to see the folks who've braved the hard winter winds, cold and snow to come to Sunday church services and the Monday and Wednesday evening meetings. Please, if you'd like to come but don't have a ride, let me or Pastor Paul know. We'd love to help!

See you in church.

Karen Robnik, Moderator

AROUND UPC



Welcome, New Members! Susan Kolberg, Robin Williams, Ernie St. George, Paula St. George, Hanna Johnson, and Devan Browley joined UP Church on January 20.

Remember in Prayer

- *Terry Therrell is recovering at home from bypass surgery.
- *June Bothun had a fall at home.
- *Kevin Behm had a fall while doing snow removal.
- *Dick & Sue Linde's daughter Donna fell while skiing and has a torn ACL.
- *Jack Stevens' memorial service was held on February 19.
- *Jackie Hietala, Faye's daughter-in-law, has pneumonia.
- *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.

Memorials

We have received donations in memory of Jack Stevens. Thank you to his friends for their thoughtfulness.

Easter Memorials

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

Bakeless Bake Sale

Women's Fellowship has begun collecting donations for a Bakeless Bake Sale. Donations are used for things such as the church fuel fund, Union Gospel Mission, CHUM, Salvation Army, Bethany Crisis Shelter. Collection will continue 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.

Olive Garden Spaghetti Dinner

March 31, 12 - 2:00 pm Adults \$10, kids (<10) \$5
Take out available Credit cards accepted
Featuring Olive Garden sauce, salad dressing, and breadsticks, along with meatballs. And desserts.

Mark your calendar!

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


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

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

2019 Financial Report – year to date (2/28/19)	
Income:	\$ 6,781
Expenses:	<u>10,623</u>
Difference:	\$ - 3,842

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

March 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 W.F. 1:30 pm Prayer/Music 5:30 pm Bring it to the Table 6 pm	7	8 Office 10-2	9
10 Worship 10:30 Daylight Saving 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 6:30 pm	15 Office 10-2	16
17 Worship 10:30 Fuel Fund St. Patrick's Day 	18 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 Choir 6:30 pm	29 Office 10-2	30
31 Worship 10:30 Olive Garden Spaghetti Dinner	April 1 Lectionary Study 6:00 pm	2	3 Office 10-2 W.F. 1:30 pm Prayer/Music 5:30 pm Bring it to the Table 6 pm	4	5 Office 10-2	6
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Coming Up in March

- March 3 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- March 5 *Community Meeting, Iron Mug, 6:00 pm
- March 6 *Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
*Ash Wednesday
- March 10 *Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 am Set your clocks AHEAD one hour**
- March 12 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- March 17 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
*St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 *First Day of Spring
- March 23 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- March 31 *Olive Garden Spaghetti Dinner, 12 Noon

Looking Ahead to 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 19 *Good Friday
- April 21 *Easter
*Breakfast 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall
*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- April 27 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm

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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): 6:30 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.



March Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|----|------------------|
| 3 | Patricia Myers | 3 | Clarice Erickson | 6 | Michael Erickson |
| 18 | Andrew Erickson | 26 | Charlene Marich | 26 | John Toman Jr. |
| 27 | Dan Rapaich | | | | |

March Anniversaries

None

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.

March 2019

*100 Years
1917 - 2017*

*May your troubles be less
And your blessings be more
And nothing but happiness
Come through your door*

Irish Blessing

