

Tower Notes

July 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**

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| July 7 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion, Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| July 14 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| July 21 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| July 28 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |



Pastor's Commentary

End of June, and summer arrives. I write this with the fan on in the office. A soft, white noise. Out the window, the robins call. The cars pass on the wet road. From the speaker on the radio come the rolling and breathy piano notes of Rubenstein's take on Chopin's Nocturnes. *'Haven't heard those Nocturnes in a good long while, I was just thinking. Funny how I still have them memorized—each rise and fall of those minor chords. Funny how I can forget things like peoples names and doctor's appointments, but these notes are etched in my mind with precision.* I used to play this CD over and over, back in my twenties—well before Seminary and ministry—when I was in a graduate program in nonfiction writing. The notes seemed to match the rhythm of my words back then. Thought it appropriate to play them now as I write this to you.

At the time when that CD seldom left the stereo, I lived in Southeast Ohio, just outside of Athens. I lived on an intentional community—rather informal in mission, but dedicated to social justice and sharing. There were six houses there, each tucked distinctly on a hundred or so acres of rolling hills, with a central barn, garden, small pond and cabana that we all shared. With a few friends, I rented the home closest to the gravel road. Our closest neighbor, in a small A-frame cottage tucked high on the valley edge, was where Eddie lived. Eddie played piano. Eddie loved Chopin. He was a curious fellow, kept mostly to himself—but seemed to like talking to me. I would visit him and hum along as he would play—amazed that I knew all the notes. Mostly though, he would play at sunset (“the gloaming hour” he'd call it, with an accent to match the quoting of Shakespeare). The community would sit at the firepit atop the hillside, drinking wine and talking quietly but mostly listening to Eddie as the nighthawks became active with their nasal twang in the darkening sky, the endless crickets and katydids and such were the white noise in the background, the whip-poor-will circling in calls (interrupting, but who were we to complain)

Writing is not like preaching. The words are more carefully chosen. The rhythm of the sentences must stand alone, without the advantage of vocal accent or bodily gesture. I like to think that I wrote like those Nocturnes. (By contrast, I suppose I preach more like jazz—maybe Thelonious Monk if I were going for piano... or Sonny Rollins...or Lester Young on the sax—but who am I to toot my own horn?) At the time, I couldn't get those piano notes out of my head. Anywhere I went, I would hear them... in the birds and the dripping of rain and once in the cadence of a barking dog. In my best moments now, some twenty years later, I like to think God's in my head like those notes. In any event, I am still learning to listen.

Sometimes it's the little things in the church... we have new internet, we're fixing our problems with the printers, the candelabras are cleaned and the fellowship hall is looking sharp. I hear the laughter of folks sharing weekly picnics. I hear the change in voices as I walk up and down the main aisle as we sing our hymns.

Sometimes I sit and scratch my chin and think about church vitality. How shall we thrive in response to God's call? What can I do? But right now, I let it all go. Let summer happen. Let July be what it shall be. Let memories arrive in tenderness, but remember they arrive with love. And listen to the song all around me. The music God gives us here in this sweet ol' world.

Enjoy. In Joy.
Pastor Paul

Message from the Moderator

Hello all!

Summer is here! I hope everyone is enjoying our warm days and evenings as much as I am, thunder storms and all. My garden is finally showing some signs of growing. It loves the sunshine and the rain but so do the weeds. And so it goes, but I love to be out in the yard this time of year.

If you haven't had a chance to catch one of the “Grill's On” Thursday evening events, I'm here to tell you that we've been having a lot of fun. It's a great time to catch up with neighbors, eat good food and get some playing in with the yard games. If it's raining we head inside. Come see what you're missing.

The Council is taking July and August off, so if there's something that you want to have us know about, please let me or Pastor Paul know. We can always call a special meeting or have an executive meeting.

Our choir is having a great time and we'll continue into the summer. We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays at six and will sing that following Sunday. We'd love to have you join us. We try to keep the music light and something that folks would enjoy hearing. Also, if there's a favorite song that you would like to hear, please let me know.

Happy summer and see you in church!

Karen Robnik, Moderator

AROUND UPC

Pastor Paul will be out of the office from Tuesday, July 2, to Friday, July 5. He'll be lost somewhere in the Boundary Waters and therefore unreachable by phone. You can try prayer, though. He'll be listening well.

Remember in Prayer

- *Kevin Behm is recovering from surgery.
- *Leah Blevins recently underwent surgery.
- *Sympathies for the family of Lois Maki (Dennis), friend of the church, who passed away in Florida on June 21. We hold her and her loved ones in the light and love of God.
- *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 searching or in a time of transition; those who serve our community, our 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.

United Protestant Church will be hosting a funeral service for Debbie Leal on Tuesday, July 9, at 11:00 am (visitation at 10:00) with fellowship meal to follow. Debbie's son, Andrew, and Crystal Leal (Merila) were married in this church a few years ago.

Thank You!

- *20 ladies donated to the Women's Fellowship Bakeless Bake Sale for a total of \$318.00.
- *To all with musical and vocal talents. Cathy Dale sang, accompanied by Linda Bray and Ashley Lund on June 9, and the UP Choir has included gospel and other special offerings a couple times a month.
- *Sandie Chelstrom, Sue & Dick Linde decorated the Fellowship Hall in red, white & blue.
- *Pastor Paul officiated at funeral for Helen Hendricks, a resident of Morgan Park, on June 15 at UPC. Thank you to all of our church members who were able to help the family with set-up or brought bars to serve with lunch.
- *Following received from Duluth Public Schools: "...we wish to thank you for the donation of (socks, gloves, hats, scarves) for Stowe School.... Your thoughtfulness will help us in our efforts to provide the highest quality of education for our students. Thank you again for your generosity. It is truly appreciated!"

Morgan Park 5K Run/2.5K Walk, June 2

It was our most successful run/walk to date - 116 runners and 14 walkers finished the course! Thanks go to all the participants and to Eve Graves for coordinating the runners

and walkers. There are many to thank for helping with the race (way finding, water stations, timing) and serving up coneys, the bake sale, raffle/silent auction, and set-up & clean-up.

Summer Schedule Changes

Monday's Bible Study is cancelled for the summer, but if interested, here's a "**book club**" option: Pastor Paul is re-reading the books of the amazing Christian writer Brian Doyle this summer and would love to share in reading and conversation. Brian was an amazing man with a beautiful faith. As Pastor Paul wrote in a recent weekly reminder: *He helped me to see the world with amazed and loving eyes again - so I'm happy to share his books!* Let me know if you're interested in reading along with me.

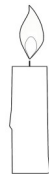
Wednesday's "Bring it to the Table" is cancelled for the summer months. C'mon over to the church on Thursdays for picnics and fun!

Thursdays this summer: "Grill's On!" Community Picnic (5:30 - ?) We'll set out tables, break out lawn games, and fire up the grill. You bring a lawn chair, a friend, something to put on the grill, something to share as a side (nothing fancy, just share what you have - and if you don't have anything, we'll have plenty to share!). *Note: Have any extra lawn games tucked in your garage? Bring those too!*

Discerning our Call (Skills and Interests)

Have you filled out your "Skills and Interests" form? Forms are located in the Narthex, as well as downstairs in Fellowship Hall. As our church increases in activity and membership, we want to welcome everybody to explore new avenues to express their faith, utilize their gifts, and learn new things. Sharing your specific areas of interest helps the church define our ministry goals as we look toward growth and discernment of God's call.

Candles




Word in the church is that folks really like to see the candelabras lit on Sunday. To offset the cost of candles, we're accepting donations in honor of loved ones. We'll print their names in our Sunday bulletins and lift them up in prayer.

2019 Financial Report – year to date (6/30/19)

Income:	\$ 28,157
Expenses:	<u>32,241</u>
Difference:	\$ - 4,084

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	8	9 Council Meeting CANCELLED	10 Office 10-2 Choir 6 pm	11 Grill's On 5:30 pm	12 Office 10-2	13
14 Worship 10:30	15	16	17 Office 10-2	18 Grill's On 5:30 pm	19 Office 10-2	20
21 Worship 10:30 Fuel Fund	22	23	24 Office 10-2 Choir 6 pm	25 Grill's On 5:30 pm	26 Office 10-2	27 Ruby's Pantry 11:00 am
28 Worship 10:30	29	30	31 Office 10-2	August 1 Grill's On 5:30 pm	2 Office 10-2	3
4 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	5	6	7 Office 10-2	8 Grill's On 5:30 pm	9 Office 10-2	10
11 Worship 10:30	12	13 Council Meeting CANCELLED	14 Office 10-2 Choir 6 pm	15 Grill's On 5:30 pm	16 Office 10-2	17

Coming Up in July

- July 4 *Independence Day
- July 7 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- July 9 *Council Meeting - CANCELLED
- July 21 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- July 25 *Fish Heads & Friends, Blues to Bluegrass, 5-8 pm, GND REC
- July 27 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm

Looking Ahead to August

- August 4 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- August 13 *Council Meeting - CANCELLED
- August 18 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- August 24 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- August 25 *United States Air Force Band of Mid-America, *Starlifter*, 3:00 pm
at outdoor performance pavilion at the GND REC.

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Wednesday (2nd & 4th): 6:00 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!).

The UP Church Pastoral Relations Committee 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.

Weekly Email Update

Each Friday, UP Church sends out a church-wide email including reminders of upcoming events and a note from Pastor Paul. Interested in receiving this? Send a note to the office. Also, paper copies of the updates will be available on Sunday mornings in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

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.



July Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Dave Huberty | 3 Dale Williamson | 4 Doris Mattson |
| 5 Mary Beth Merila | 7 Ray Merila | 8 Kristy Merila |
| 9 Zachary Nickila | 9 Pam Herrington | 10 David (Willie) Myers |
| 12 Kalysta Rengo | 12 Lainey Lynn Williamson | 15 Dick Linde |
| 16 Kevin Behm | 16 Shelley Young | 17 Paul VanAntwerp |
| 18 Nathan Williamson | 19 Brian Nickila | 19 Doris Toman |
| 19 Aaron Blevins | 20 Connie Weast | 23 Daphne Parenteau Ridoux |
| 25 Sue Linde | 27 Laura Nickila | 29 Bruce Nickila |
| 30 Jessica Francisco | | |

July Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18 Paula & Ernie St. George | 21 Heather & Kevin Conito |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|

Learn more at facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch

United Protestant Church UCC

830 88th Avenue W.
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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.

July 2019

*100 Years
1917 - 2017*

*Almighty and all merciful God,
through the witness of those
who have gone before us,
and with prayers for those
who will come long after us,
continue to bless America.*

~ Fay Angus

