



Tower Notes

November 2019

**United Protestant Church
(UCC)**

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

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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

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| November 3 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion, Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund
All Saints' Day |
| November 10 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| November 17 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| November 24 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God
with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,
and with all thy mind.....
Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
Matthew 23:37, 39

Pastor's Commentary

"Other generations in church got to do what their parents did... We are not so lucky"

—Diana Butler Bass

Well, I hope I have that quote right...at least paraphrased appropriately. I heard it as a passing remark as she was leading a discussion in a group called "Emerging Leaders"... this was many years ago, when I was still "emerging" I suppose. (Does that mean I am "submerging" now?) —Not here, not now...I sure don't feel like I'm sinking at United Protestant Church. Oh, sure I'm engulfed with a desk full of papers, but that's more to do with my organizational habits. Within that clutter, though, what's most exciting, is my church "to do" list, well over a page in length, gleaned from the thoughts and ideas shared by many members in many conversations, and all centered on what feels like--to many of us--an interesting time of transition here at U.P. Church.

See, I've been having fun writing the "Toward Sunday" column in the weekly reminders email, and love the responses I receive, but this space in the newsletter is different. Here, it is better that I offer a summary about church life. So how's this for a summary:

Our church rose up to accommodate the want for a Protestant Church in a Model Community for US Steel. This was a time when participation and membership in a church felt obligatory for many, so the church thrived. In this context, it could be said that for many years, the "mission" of the church was to accommodate the religious desires of a specific culture and class of people in a unique time and place in history. The generations pass. The industries close. Most people move away. Our elders pass away and the newer generations, for the most part, no longer feel a sense of obligation to attend church, rather seek "relevance" to their new and different lives and questions of faith. During this time, small but faithful number of people commit to sustaining the church. The most recent pastor is hired. (A quirky fellow...a bit overly-verbose and idealistic, and his jokes aren't really that funny, but I guess he's nice and he has a lot of energy). One significant charge given to this new pastor is to "engage the community", which he does with some gusto (remember that "overly-verbose" part?), and begins to invite the present wants and needs of the community—honoring the initial "mission" of the church—into our everyday life as a church. Problem is: the community has changed, and what people in the community are seeking from a church has changed...

...Or has it? Acceptance and love of Jesus and celebration of God does not change. But as I like to say: accepting Jesus into your heart is like learning to walk. It is a great first step. Now, Jesus invites you to set out on a journey with him. See, there are many churches out there that consider that first step the *only* step. And there are many people (of quite similar class and culture that once inhabited Morgan Park) that flock to such churches...*contemporary music, lots of things for kids to do, coffee shop in the sanctuary... cool.* It accommodates the wants, but...

...But what about the rest of Jesus's teaching and action? Those things he shared and the miracles of healing and grace he performed when he set out into communities with his disciples? That recognition of the "other" that Jesus so often refers to, you know, the one that was once reviled, derided, or feared? What about those messages of turning our previous understanding of social order on its head? The "exalted being humbled" and the "humbled exalted"? You know... all those things we've been talking about in Luke in recent weeks?

Friends, that's where we are. In a community that has changed and a culture of Christianity that seems to want to stop at the first "accept Jesus" step and call everything well and done. And it may have been our way in the past in this church, and it may have worked at that time... but (and this is where that quote on top comes in: "*Other generations in church got to do what their parents did... We are not so lucky*") as we sustain our mission of accommodating the community and honor our present "reason for being", we'll do well to take a closer look at all those words in the Gospel of Luke we've been reading week by week about social order and the presence of God in those "others" that aren't like us. We're on a journey with Jesus, after all, and he's going to stir our souls whether we like it or not!

...And that's why I get excited about that long "to do" list I mentioned earlier. The list has a lot of examples of love, spirit, celebration, creativity, and care. I'll do my part to be wind in the sails when our people are called to ministry. I'll laugh with you, cry with you, study scripture and pray and serve with you. I just ask that you all be open to the new thing God is doing, both in the church and in your own soul!

Pastor Paul

AROUND UPC

Message from the Moderator

Hello All!

I saw a few snowflakes today. It didn't last long, but the fact is that winter will soon be here. One thing that means for us here at UP church is the Bill Bastian Christmas concert. I have verified with the Highland Quartet that they and Bill Bastian will be with us on December 14 at 1:30 pm. We picked a Saturday again this year since this seemed to work well with folks. They always give us a great concert and they love coming to our church. Get the word out to everyone. What better way is there to get everyone in the Christmas spirit than Christmas music.

We will have a fall bazaar and bake sale this year. Krissy Stanney volunteered to organize the craft sale part and we will need church help with the bake sale and the lunch. We have it set for November 23 from 9:00 to 1:00. Stay tuned for more on that.

Cari Elliot has once again been in charge of our Halloween Carnival. It was held on October 26 and was a huge success. Lots of great games, prizes and food.

On Sunday, October 27, a benefit was held for Kristin Chederquist. Also, we continue to have AA meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays. And I can't leave out the Wednesday picnics. Lots of church and community folks come out for this gathering of food and fellowship.

Happy Thanksgiving ahead of time!

See you in church

Karen Robnik, Moderator

Remember in Prayer

*Doris Mattson's brother passed away on September 28.

*Tina Marczak is coping with an infection.

*Lucille Kolberg was diagnosed with internal shingles.

*Safe travels to Judi & Bob Gaskill who are spending the winter in Florida.

*Remember those who are unable to be with us.

*If you would like prayer for yourself, family or friends, you may contact Sue Linde, 626-1272, and she will begin the prayer chain.

All Saints Day November 3

As part of an All Saints Day service, we will remember the following loved ones who passed away in the last 12 months: Lucille Butler, June D. Olson, Florence Strandberg, Thelma Kortkamp, Jack Stevens, Helen Hendricks, Debbie Leal.

Save the Date!

Bill Bastian & the Highland Quartet
Saturday, December 14 1:30 pm
Coffee & cookies after the concert
Bake Sale



History Work Days

Due to the many events and busy days coming up, History Work Days are put on hold until January. Thank you to all who have worked on this project; much progress was made with sorting and organizing.

Christmas Poinsettias



We will have Christmas poinsettia memorials again this year. Cost is \$10 for a poinsettia, \$5 for a line memorial. Please place your order with Marna or Mike Fasteland (384-9872) by Sunday, December 8.

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### **Mitten Tree**

The Mitten Tree will go up in the Narthex on November 24. Please bring mittens/gloves, scarves, hats, socks to decorate the tree.



### **Candles**

We really like to see the candelabra lit on Sunday. To offset cost of candles, donations in honor or memory of loved ones accepted. Names are printed in bulletins and we lift them up in prayer. If you would like to someone remembered, please leave their name at the office.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Thank You!**

\*\*Karen Robnik donated a larger computer monitor for the church office.

\*\*Thunderbird House thanks UPC for the welcome they have been given.

\*\*Cathy Dale, Linda Bray and Ashley Lund provided special music for worship on October 20.

\*\*The Halloween Carnival on October 26 was very well attended with a steady flow of children enjoying games and food. Special thanks go to sponsors: Dr. Marshak & Grand Avenue Veterinary Clinic, Greg Francisco & Northern Orthotic and Prosthetic Center, Susan Coen State Farm Agency, and World Frame, Inc. Thanks to Cari Elliot for her work in organizing the carnival, and to all members and friends who helped set-up/clean-up, sell tickets, manage games, and help in the kitchen, and made generous donations of time, food and money.

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Fall Bazaar, Bake Sale & Lunch

November 23, 9am - 1pm

Krissy Stanney has volunteered to organize a craft sale; sign-up sheet to help is posted in Fellowship Hall. Watch for more details.



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2019 Financial Report – year to date (as of 10/31/19)

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Income:     | \$ 44,051     |
| Expenses:   | <u>49,826</u> |
| Difference: | \$ - 5,774    |

# UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

## November 2019

| Sun                                                                                                          | Mon                                                                                   | Tue                                                                               | Wed                                                                                  | Thu                                                                                               | Fri                      | Sat                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                              |                                                                                       |  |                                                                                      |                                                                                                   | <b>1</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>2</b>                                                                   |
| <b>3</b> DST ends<br><b>2 am</b><br>Worship 10:30<br>Communion<br>Fuel Fund<br>Food Shelf<br>All Saints' Day | <b>4</b><br>Lectionary<br>Study<br>6 pm                                               | <b>5</b><br>Election Day<br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                    | <b>6</b><br>Office 10-2<br>Women's<br>Fellowship<br>1:30 pm<br>Grill's On<br>5:00 pm | <b>7</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                                                    | <b>8</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>9</b>                                                                   |
| <b>10</b><br>Worship 10:30                                                                                   | <b>11</b> Council<br>7:30 pm<br>Trustees &<br>Diaconate<br>6:30 pm<br>Veterans<br>Day | <b>12</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                                   | <b>13</b><br>Office 10-2<br><br>Grill's On<br>5:00 pm<br>Choir 6 pm                  | <b>14</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                                                   | <b>15</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>16</b>                                                                  |
| <b>17</b><br>Worship 10:30<br>Fuel Fund                                                                      | <b>18</b><br>Lectionary<br>Study<br>6 pm                                              | <b>19</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                                   | <b>20</b><br>Office 10-2<br><br>Grill's On<br>5:00 pm                                | <b>21</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                                                   | <b>22</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>23</b><br>Bazaar &<br>Bake Sale<br>9-1<br>Ruby's<br>Pantry<br>11:00 am  |
| <b>24</b><br>Worship 10:30                                                                                   | <b>25</b><br>Lectionary<br>Study<br>6 pm                                              | <b>26</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                                   | <b>27</b><br>Office 10-2<br><br>Grill's On<br>5:00 pm<br>Choir 6 pm                  | <b>28</b><br> | <b>29</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>30</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Dec 1</b><br>Worship 10:30<br>Communion<br>Fuel Fund<br>Food Shelf                                        | <b>2</b><br>Lectionary<br>Study<br>6 pm                                               | <b>4</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                                    | <b>4</b><br>Office 10-2<br>Women's<br>Fellowship<br>1:30 pm<br>Grill's On<br>5:00 pm | <b>5</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                                                    | <b>6</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>7</b>                                                                   |
| <b>8</b><br>Worship 10:30                                                                                    | <b>9</b> Council<br>7:30 pm<br>Trustees &<br>Diaconate<br>6:30 pm                     | <b>10</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                                   | <b>11</b><br>Office 10-2<br><br>Grill's On<br>5:00 pm<br>Choir 6 pm                  | <b>12</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                                                   | <b>13</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>14</b><br>Bill Bastian<br>& Highland<br>Quartet<br>1:30 pm<br>Bake Sale |

## Coming Up in November

- November 3 \*Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am  
\*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf  
\*All Saints Day
- November 5 \*Election Day
- November 6 \*Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- November 11 \*Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30  
\*Veterans Day
- November 17 \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- November 23 \*UPC Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale, 9 - 1  
\*Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- November 28 \*Thanksgiving

## Looking Ahead to December

- December 1 \*First Sunday in Advent  
\*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- December 4 \*Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- December 8 \*Deadline to order Christmas poinsettias
- December 9 \*Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- December 14 \*Bill Bastian & the Highland Quartet, 1:30 pm
- December 15 \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- December 21 \*First Day of Winter
- December 25 \*Christmas Day
- December 28 \*Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- December 31 \*New Year's Eve

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Monday, 6:00 pm: Bible Study Join Pastor Paul for a 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.

Wednesday (2nd & 4th) 6:00 pm: Choir Practice Choir performs the following Sunday. Everyone who likes to sing is welcome to join in. Let Karen Robnik or Pastor Paul know if you have a favorite piece of music you would like to hear.

Wednesday, 5-ish-7-ish: Grill's On! Bring something for the grill or a side dish, a friend or neighbor, and enjoy the fellowship.

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 available on Sunday mornings in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

Church Contact List: Let us know if you have a new home address, phone number or email address, so we have up-to-date information for the directory. Also, if you have any additions, deletions or other changes you would like made to the directory or birthday/anniversary list, please leave a message in the office.



November Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 9 | Barbara Herrington | 12 | Cheryl Paskett | 15 | Jim Lowe Jr. |
| 16 | Austin Rogalla | 16 | Ernie St. George | 19 | Marcel Ridoux |
| 21 | Linda Rominger | 24 | Parker Verhel | 25 | Katelyn Blevins |
| 26 | Elliot Zurich | 29 | Ian Nickila | | |

November Anniversaries

None

Learn more at facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch

United Protestant Church UCC

830 88th Avenue W.

Duluth, MN 55808

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.

November 2019

*100 Years
1917 - 2017*

*Let us come before Him
with Thanksgiving*

Psalm 95:2

