

Tower Notes

October 2019

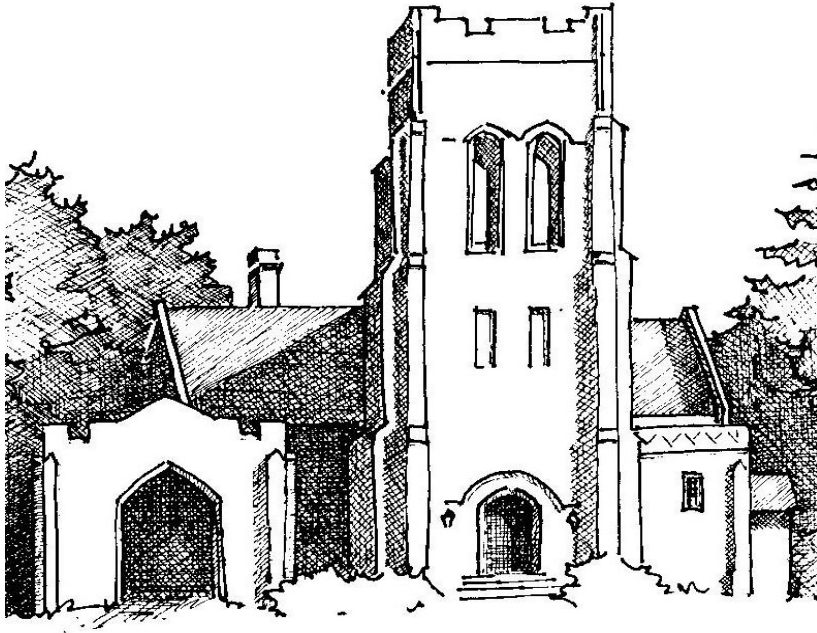
**United Protestant Church
(UCC)**

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

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| October 6 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion
Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| October 13 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| October 20 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| October 27 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |



Pastor's Commentary

Fall is a feast for the senses... looking up into clear skies, framed with the bright reds and golds of the trees in transition, watching for flocks of birds in migration, and the passing clouds formed by the now cooler air...and down, to the fallen leaves that cover the path, in search for the bright mushrooms that appear out of nowhere. Around are the sounds of the season--the wind through the trees, the rustle and crunch of the leaves underfoot, the birds calling as they congregate--oh, and that overall crisp treble tone that arrives as the air grows less thick with humidity. I smile. Thank God for this gift.

Geesh, that is fun to write. Letting the words flow as the images go dancing through my head. But here's another side:

Church is a feast for the senses, looking around at the cluster of familiar faces smiling and nodding in conversation, looking down at the food that has been prepared, and shared in abundance. Listening to the steady hum of words--and I've heard, listening closer, the affirmative laughter between friends. The music rings as the choir sings and even in the silence of a time of prayer, I smile, thank God for this gift. But so too is there beauty in the sobbing of a soul that has realized it is time to change...to make a better life...to sprout (yes, even in fall) from the dark night of the soul that has kept them in fear and in mystery.

Friends, this church, and its people, are beautiful.

I urge you to dive in, with all of your senses and with all of your heart. Dive into the season of transition. Dive into the church in transition. See, things all around you are gorgeous, but you have to let yourself learn to appreciate them. Take Fall for instance: we can mumble and grumble about the coming of cold, set up our defenses, and mourn for the loss of summer days, or we can say "Oh My God (and I mean it--my God!) is this season of change a gorgeous arrangement of unnecessary beauty! But you give us, by kindness and grace, dear God, the color and scent and the feeling of Fall!"

And the church is the same: people growing and changing in faith is a gorgeous thing, but you have to let yourself learn to appreciate them. We can mumble and grumble about "how the church isn't like what it was when my parents were here" and mourn for the loss of a previous time, or we can say "My God, people's lives changing for the better, simply because we opened our doors and welcomed them! Music rolls and spirit flows and laughter abounds! Can this be church? This is not the guilt I grew up with! This is not "going through the motions"! Can I really say Amen with a smile?"

Even as we honor the souls of the faith that came before us, I'm here to tell you that something exciting is happening here. It may make you nervous--I mean, things new and different always spark apprehension--but here I ask that you take in this season of faith like this season of our land. Focus on the beauty around you. Celebrate the smiles and souls on fire. Celebrate the bright and inquisitive eyes, and the laughter of friends. It is, like the season of Fall, a gift from God. I promise you, it is healthier for your soul than frowning in fear for any cold and gray month ahead.

Let's talk!
Pastor Paul



AROUND UPC

Message from the Moderator

Hello to all!

Happy fall! Leaves are turning and soon the tree limbs will be bare. Sad for some of us and not so sad for others. Depends on your outlook. Optimistic that we will have a good winter or depressed because of the snow and cold. It's our choice how we want to approach the coming season. Kind of like life itself. How do we want to approach our lives? Optimistic because of the changes we're undergoing every day, or depressed because of the changes we undergo every day. With God's help, let's be optimistic. He's here to guide us and support us in our lives. Let's trust in Him to do his job!

We're looking forward to the events coming up in the next few months. Our Halloween Carnival is set for October 26 from 4-7 and I know that Cari will be looking for volunteers to help run it.

A bingo night is on the want list again. Hopefully in November. We'll be looking for input into how to run the bingo, where to get supplies and where to get the prizes. Let me or Linda know if you have any thoughts on the bingo idea. Stay tuned for more info on this.

I am buttoning down the date and time for the Bill Bastian concert in December. We are thinking that the Saturday afternoon timing went well last year, so will probably set it up for December 14. I'll talk to Steve Highland about that date.

Lots of things coming up and your help is needed. As always, these things don't run themselves. It takes a lot of man and woman power so, THANKS in advance!! See you in church!
Karen Robnik, Moderator

Remember in Prayer

*Doris Mattson's brother has been in hospice care.

*Connie Weast has moved to a memory care unit. Address is 7869 Shady View Lane, Maple Grove, MN 55311.

*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.

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Thank You!

**Scott Nickila has been keeping the church lawn mowed.

**The Iron Mug has closed - they donated food and equipment to UP Church. We thank Mike & Shirley Letica for their generosity.

**Cathy Dale, Linda Bray and Ashley Lund provided special music for worship on September 22.

Over 100 people attended the Finnish kantele concert on September 13. Pastor Paul received the following note from Arlene Putikka Tucker, Finlandia Foundation Northland: "Thank you so much for making the Kardemimmit Concert a success. Your helpfulness & excitement was appreciated. I hope this helps open up more music and fellowship for your wonderful church community. Kiitos"

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History Work Days

Work days continue on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 10 am. Progress is being made, but still many papers and photos to sort through and organize. All are welcome to come as you can to help on the project.

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Halloween Carnival
Saturday, October 26
4:00—7:00 pm
United Protestant Church



Games and fun for children up to age 14. Entry is free, and tickets may be purchased for the games. Food and beverages will be available to purchase. Volunteers will be needed to help with set-up, clean-up and tear down, games, ticket selling, kitchen. Thank you to Cari Elliot for heading up this event.

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All Saints Day **November 3**

We will remember family and friends who have passed away in the last year. If you have someone you would like remembered, please leave a message in the office.

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Change in Dates

⇒ Due to scheduling conflicts, Women's Fellowship will NOT meet in October. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 6, 1:30 in Fellowship Hall.

⇒ At Council meeting on September 10, decision was made to move Council meetings to second Mondays to accommodate Pastor Paul's school schedule. Next Council meeting is Monday, October 14.

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2019 Financial Report – year to date (as of 9/22/19)

Income:	\$ 39,027
Expenses:	<u>43,705</u>
Difference:	\$ - 4,678

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He hath made everything beautiful in His time....

Ecclesiastes 3:11

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5:30 pm	3	4 Office 10-2	5
6 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	7 Lectionary Study 6 pm	8	9 Office 10-2 History Work Day 10 am Grill's On 5:30 pm Choir 6 pm	10	11 Office 10-2	12
13 Worship 10:30	14 Council 7:30 pm Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm	15	16 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5:30 pm	17	18 Office 10-2	19
20 Worship 10:30 Fuel Fund	21 Lectionary Study 6 pm	22	23 Office 10-2 History Work Day 10 am Grill's On 5:30 pm Choir 6 pm	24	25 Office 10-2	26 Ruby's Pantry 11:00 am Halloween Carnival 4-7 pm
27 Worship 10:30	28 Lectionary Study 6 pm	29	30 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5:30 pm	31 Halloween	Nov. 1 Office 10-2	2
3 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf All Saint's Day	4 Lectionary Study 6 pm	5	6 Office 10-2 Women's Fellowship 1:30 pm Grill's On 5:30 pm	7	8 Office 10-2	9
10 Worship 10:30	11 Veterans Day Council 7:30 pm Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm	12	13 Office 10-2 History Work Day 10 am Grill's On 5:30 pm Choir 6 pm	14	15 Office 10-2	16

Coming Up in October

- October 2 *Women's Fellowship—CANCELLED for October
- October 6 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- October 12 *Asbury UMC Annual Fall Pantry, 9-11 am
- October 14 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30
*Columbus Day
- October 19 *Norton Park UMC Fall Holiday Harvest Bazaar, 9 am-1 pm
- October 20 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- October 22 *Asbury UMC Meatball Supper, 4:30-6:30 pm Adults \$10, youth (5-12) \$5.00
- October 26 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
*Halloween Carnival, UP Church, 4:00-7:00 pm
- October 31 *Halloween

Looking Ahead to November

- November 3 *Daylight Saving Time ends 2:00 am
*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
*All Saints' Day
- November 6 *Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- November 11 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
*Veterans Day
- November 20 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- November 23 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- November 28 *Thanksgiving

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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, 5:30 pm: Grill's On!** We'll be inside for cold weather, but grill as long as we can, until we turn to indoor cooking. Bags & Ladder Ball set up inside, but bring your own indoor fun games.

**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.

UP Church Pastoral Relations Committee meets periodically to visit about our Ministry at UP Church. Committee members are 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.

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,



### October Birthdays

- |                   |                    |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Julie Lowe      | 2 Michael Nickila  | 6 Dennis Mortorelli |
| 6 Robin Motley    | 7 Beth Bagley      | 7 Jon Blevins       |
| 7 Marlene Blevins | 10 Marna Fasteland | 13 Donna Williamson |
| 16 Sarah Rogalla  | 19 Corey Francisco | 24 Devin Browley    |
| 26 Jacob Merila   | 28 Courtney Moran  | 30 Jim Lowe Sr.     |
| 31 Mark Erickson  | 31 Eric Merila     |                     |

### October Anniversaries

- |                        |                       |                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Wendi & Dave Huberty | 19 Cari & Jack Elliot | 25 Jane & Mike Rapaich |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|

Learn more at [facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch](https://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.*

*October 2019*

*100 Years  
1917 - 2017*

*To everything there is a season,  
and a time for every purpose  
under the heaven...a time to  
plant, and a time to pluck up  
that which is planted....*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*



