

Tower Notes

December 2019

**United Protestant Church
(UCC)**

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

office@unitedprotestantchurch.org
facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch

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

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| December 1 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion, Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| December 8 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| December 15 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| December 22 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Worship 3:00 PM |
| December 29 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |

And the angel said unto them,
Fear not: for, behold, I bring you
good tidings of great joy, which
shall be to all people.

Luke 2:10



Pastor's Commentary

Update (from my notes):

Twenty two inches of snow on Saturday eve. Church cancelled on Sunday. I skied into the church that morning in the unlikely event that somebody local would try to hoof it, but the snow was too deep even for skis. Wishing I had brought snowshoes. Come Wednesday, our driveway was not plowed out—then I was reminded that we used to tell our snowplow driver to "have us clear by Sunday"—forgetting to tell him that we have a lot more going on midweek than we used to.

That last line made me smile. An active church is a blessed thing. Groups of healing and prayer and song and fellowship abound! Even winter hasn't held back our Community Potluck (though it seems a little silly to call it "Grill's On" anymore).

One witty little aphorism I like to repeat is: "A church with locked doors is like a car without wheels, it just doesn't work!"

...And "work" is what we do. It may not seem like it, most often, as we're laughing and playing and sharing, but think of it this way: every act of love and grace is a little tug on the knot of hopelessness... or loneliness... or anger or despair. Every time we say "you matter" we become participants in that Gospel hope that we see one another through the eyes of God's love, that we shake off our labels or judgment or divisions, and we—by virtue of a smile and kind word—stretch our hands out to share with one another this wild and precious world we live in.

Sure... it's dark out there. The season. The news. Even our neighbors tend to grumble 'round about this time—but see: that's our real work, to be the voice and the reminder that light and love and hope and...well... resurrection!—those are the things that ultimately have the last word in God's hope for us. We won't silence the negativity...it'll always be there... and in respect to own selves we'll stumble and fall, and we'll learn from it all... but using God's gift of this institution of grace, the United Protestant Church will just keep saying: "We see you. We welcome you. We love you. Come in, come in. We are a people of light and warmth." We will light the candles, and bring in the Advent light...

...and I'll be sure to tell the snowplow driver we do more here than just pray together on Sundays.

Keep in touch,
Pastor Paul

AROUND UPC

Message from the Moderator

Hello All!

We have had a great fall here at UP Church. The Halloween Carnival and the Fall Bazaar & Craft sale were great events and a huge thank you to all who took part. The weather was good and the turnout of community was wonderful to see.

A reminder to all that the annual Bill Bastian/Highland Quartet concert is coming up. This year we will be having it on Saturday, December 14, at 1:30 pm and, as always, there will be coffee and treats and a bake sale after the concert. With that in mind, there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for folks to volunteer to bring treats, sell them and help serve and clean up afterwards. Bill and the Quartet 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!

The choir will have special music for this Christmas season. We have fun and anyone who enjoys singing is truly invited to join us. We have been meeting at 6:00 on Wednesdays, so if you're interested please join us. Also, if there are certain songs you would like us to do, let me know.

We will be looking for people to fill some vacancies on our Board of Deacons. Please consider volunteering for this. It's a wonderful opportunity to see how our Council works and we have fun! Let me or Pastor Paul know if you want to be involved.

See you in church

Karen Robnik, Moderator

Remember in Prayer

*Kathy Miketin and Sandra Polo, friends, both passed away on November 14.

*Patricia Northfield, mother of Collette Illy, passed away on November 20.

*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.

Christmas Eve Worship

3:00 pm

Let us welcome Him. We will have a traditional service, and special music. We will be sharing the light.



Sanctuary Decorating Saturday, December 7, 9:00 am

Join us as we put up the tree and decorate our church for the season! All who want to help are invited. Also, if you have a vacuum cleaner that is easy to transport, please bring it as this is a good time to vacuum the upstairs of the church (especially after bringing in the tree). Call Mike or Marna if you have questions (384-9872).

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## 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 is up in the Narthex. Please bring mittens/gloves, scarves, hats, socks to decorate the tree.



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## 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.

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Thank You!

**Thank you to Dick Linde and Ernie St. George, who are shoveling and keeping our sidewalks free of snow.

**The Fall Bazaar & Craft Sale on November 23 was well attended. Thank you to all who helped with set-up/clean-up, the bake sale, and serving coney's. A special thank you goes to Krissy Stanny for volunteering to head up the bazaar and arrange for vendors - there was a good assortment of crafts and specialty items.

**Thanks to all who helped decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for the season. It is very festive.

**Thank you to UP Choir who are planning and providing special music during Advent.


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## 2019 Financial Report – year to date (as of 11/30/19)

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Income:     | \$ 49,015     |
| Expenses:   | <u>54,250</u> |
| Difference: | \$ - 5,235    |

# UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

## December 2019

| Sun                                                               | Mon                                                                   | Tue                                                                    | Wed                                                                                              | Thu                             | Fri                      | Sat                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>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>3</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 5-7<br>Choir 6 pm      | <b>5</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm  | <b>6</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>7</b><br>Clean and<br>decorate<br>Sanctuary<br>9:00 am                  |
| <b>8</b><br>Worship 10:30                                         | <b>9</b><br>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>Grill's On 5-7<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 |
| <b>15</b><br>Worship 10:30<br>Fuel Fund                           | <b>16</b><br>Lectionary<br>Study<br>6 pm                              | <b>17</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                        | <b>18</b><br>Office 10-2<br>Grill's On 5-7<br>Choir 6 pm                                         | <b>19</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm | <b>20</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>21</b><br>First Day of<br>Winter                                        |
| <b>22</b><br>Worship 10:30                                        | <b>23</b><br>Lectionary<br>Study<br>6 pm                              | <b>24</b><br>Christmas<br>Eve Service<br>3:00 pm<br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm | <b>25</b><br> | <b>26</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm | <b>27</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>28</b><br>Ruby's<br>Pantry<br>11:00 am                                  |
| <b>29</b><br>Worship 10:30                                        | <b>30</b><br>Lectionary<br>Study<br>6 pm                              | <b>31</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm<br><i>New Year's<br/>Eve</i>           | <b>January 1</b><br><i>New Year's<br/>Day</i>                                                    | <b>2</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm  | <b>3</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>4</b>                                                                   |
| <b>5</b><br>Worship 10:30<br>Communion<br>Fuel Fund<br>Food Shelf | <b>6</b><br>Lectionary<br>Study<br>6 pm                               | <b>7</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm                                         | <b>8</b><br>Office 10-2<br>Grill's On 5-7                                                        | <b>9</b><br>AA Meeting<br>7 pm  | <b>10</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>11</b>                                                                  |
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## Coming Up in December

- December 1 \*First Sunday in Advent  
\*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- December 7 \*Decorate Sanctuary
- December 8 \*Deadline to order Christmas poinsettias
- December 9 \*Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30
- December 11 \*Women's Fellowship, Fellowship Hall, 1:30 pm (postponed from Dec. 4)
- December 14 \*Bill Bastian & the Highland Quartet, 1:30 pm
- December 15 \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- December 21 \*First Day of Winter
- December 24 \*Christmas Eve Service, 3:00 pm
- December 25 \*Christmas Day
- December 28 \*Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- December 31 \*New Year's Eve

## Looking Ahead to January

- January 1 \*New Year's Day
- January 5 \*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- January 13 \*Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- January 19 \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- January 25 \*Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- January 26 \*Annual Meeting & Potluck



**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.



### December Birthdays

- |                     |                   |                      |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 4 Beth Fredrickson  | 9 Karen Donald    | 11 Shawna Mortorelli |
| 14 Bev Moline       | 15 June Bothun    | 24 Gerald Herrington |
| 26 Shari Mortorelli | 27 Chet Johnson   | 27 Stacey Verhel     |
| 28 Lynn Zurich      | 29 Savanna Verhel |                      |

### December Anniversaries

- 29 Shari & Dennis Mortorelli

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

*December 2019*

*100 Years  
1917 - 2017*

## *Bill Bastian & the Highland Quartet Christmas Concert*

*Saturday, December 14  
1:30 p.m.*

*United Protestant Church*

*Enjoy coffee and cookies after the concert in the Fellowship Hall*

Free Will Offering



Christmas Bake Sale

