

Tower Notes

January 2020

**United Protestant Church
(UCC)**

in Morgan Park
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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

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| January 5 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion, Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| January 12 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| January 19 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| January 26 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Annual Meeting & Potluck 11:30 AM |



Pastor's Commentary

Just wanted to remind folks that I've taken to writing a small commentary every Friday in our email reminders. (Interested in receiving our reminders? Sign up by sending a note to Clarice at office@unitedprotestantchurch.org.)

I suppose there is no *need* to write these commentaries, and I certainly don't expect everybody to read them, but I send them out as a challenge to myself to keep my words and ideas fresh and active, so that I don't get dull and stale in the day to day. In other words: I've always loved writing, and I don't want to forget how much I love it. I don't want to take it for granted.

...We often say something similar to one another with respect to our loved ones - friends and family. "Let them know how much you love them. Do not take them for granted." And now I'm thinking (yes, you knew it was coming!): do we do the same with Jesus? The same Jesus that just arrived humble and vulnerable in the nativity story we just shared together? The same Jesus that we felt as we lit those candles and sang Silent Night on Christmas Eve?

"Let him know how much you love him. Don't take him for granted."

I guess it differs a bit with Jesus, though, because in my faith I believe there is nothing we can do to keep Jesus's love from being given. Sure, we can run from it, reject it, ignore it, etc., but it's like what I said by way of benediction during our service Christmas Eve: "You can extinguish these candles, but you cannot extinguish God's love for you." (Or words similar to those - the spirit moved me to share in the moment and I didn't write them down.)

Think of it this way: we are a people that make the choice to gather together and support a building and certain behaviors that reflect our shared desire to live into the love God gives us and the love we share in return. We get together and do all that we do so that we may actively participate in the act of NOT taking it for granted! A pretty building? Yes. A long history and tradition? Sure. But just like we might say there takes a special something to turn a "house" into a "home," there's a similar something that we do to turn a building into a church, an institution into a ministry.

That "special something" is our sharing, friends. Not just between one another, but with all we encounter in the name of United Protestant Church. Our lives together are bound by that central mission of never (ever!) taking Jesus Christ for granted. And we show him this respect and love by nurturing his presence in our lives. By engaging in the ministries he called us to do. By loving one another as he has loved us.

And nurturing ourselves! As we enter this new year, take a moment to reflect on what in your life might have - like my writing was for me in the past - become "dull and stale in the day to day." Is there anything that could use a good dose of personal challenge to keep it "fresh and active"? Is there something you love so much that you want to be certain you will never take it for granted? I invite you to welcome us on that journey with you. This sharing that we do - this same sharing that turns a "house" into a "home" - yearns for your creativity, your interest, your curiosity, and your love.

Keep in touch,
Pastor Paul

AROUND UPC

Message from the Moderator

Hello All!

I hope everyone has recovered from the Christmas season! It can be very stressful, with the gift buying, food preparation, decorating and hosting. It can also be very meaningful and wonderful. I guess we have to remember the true reason for Christmas: The birth of our Lord Jesus.

Keep in mind the annual meeting set for January 26. We need 20 members either present in person or represented by proxy for a quorum so that we can conduct the business of the church. Plus, the potluck is always good!

We will be looking for new members to fill some of the openings that will be coming up on the boards. If you're approached to fill these, please remember how much of a privilege it is to serve our church. Also, we have a lot of fun!

See you in church
Karen Robnik, Moderator

Joys and Concerns

- *June Bothun turned 90 years of age on December 15.
- *Kari Rengo is recovering from knee surgery.
- *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.

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Thank You

- *To all who helped clean and decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for the Christmas season, making it so festive.
- *To Marna & Mike Fasteland for coordinating getting a tree and memorial poinsettias for the altar.
- *To all who brought items for the Mitten Tree; they will be taken to Stowe School for the children.
- *Courtney Moran helped with a blanket drive for Carlton County Crisis Shelter. Thank you to those who brought in blankets.
- *Thank you to Mike & Shirley Letica who organized the "Make Every Child Smile" toy drive at UPC. Distribution was on December 22. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped with the distribution, set-up and clean-up.
- *A good crowd came out to enjoy the Christmas Concert with Bill Bastian & the Highland Quartet. Thank you to our volunteers who helped with set-up/clean-up, ushering, the kitchen and bake sale. Special thanks to sponsors Dougherty Funeral Home and Tom Young & Associates insurance agency. And to Karen Robnik for meeting with the musicians to schedule the concert.

*Thanks to the bakers who turned out on December 12 to make many dozens of cookies for coffee after the concert and to sell at the bake sale.

*Christmas Eve worship was attended by around 70 people. Special music was offered by the UP Choir, joined by Linda Bray and Ashley Lund; it was a moving and meaningful service.

*Our snow shovelers have been getting a workout during December with the two large "snow events."

*A very BIG thank you to members and friends who during the year give so freely of their time and talents to benefit UPC and the community.

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Annual Meeting & Potluck: January 26

Reports from committees are due in the office by Friday, January 17. Proposed 2020 budget will be posted for review prior to the meeting.

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FYI:

Council meetings have been returned to 2nd Tuesday of the month. NOTE that start time has been moved to 6 pm for Trustees & Diaconate, and 7 pm for whole Council.

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Are you interested in becoming a member of UP Church? (Or interested in renewing your covenant with the church after a period of absence?) Join us on Monday, January 13, at 6 pm, for an informational meeting.

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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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Let God's love wrap around you
like a warm blanket on a cold day.

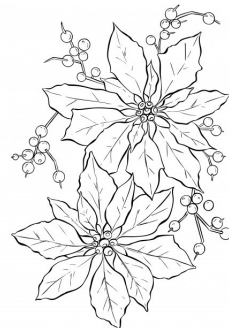
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2019 Financial Report – year to date (as of 12/31/19)	
Income:	\$ 57,060
Expenses:	<u>63,113</u>
Difference:	\$ - 6,054

Christmas Memorials 2019

Thank you to all who have given memorials honoring loved ones.

- *In Loving Memory of Ronald "Ron" Benson from his wife Donna and family*
- *In Loving Memory of "Papa" Ron Benson, Robert & Anne Benson, Marshall & Keith Benson from Kathy & Kevin Behm and family*
- *In Loving Memory of Alfred Bothun, Eilef & Emily Bothun, Paul Johnson, Victoria (Johnson) Peterson & Albert Peterson from June Bothun and family*
- *In Memory of Family and Friends from Keith & Jeri Erickson and family*
- *In Memory of Family and Friends from Clarice Erickson*
- *In Memory of Family and Friends from the Fasteland family*
- *In Memory of Ryan Hietala, Randy Hietala, Norman & Esther Hietala, Victor & Ebba Bjork, Jacob Dylan Hietala and Kari Hietala Schuster from Faye and the Hietala family*
- *In Memory of Bob and Family from Joyce Hollingsworth and family*
- *In Memory of William David Ion, Rosemarie & Wesley Bradford from Sheldean Ion and William*
- *In Memory of Joyce, Paul Johnson, Victoria Peterson and Mr. & Mrs. G.L. Meyer from the Chester Johnson family*
- *In Memory of my mom, Love the Leticas*
- *In Memory of Edwin & Mable Linde and Douglas & Alice Merrill from Dick and Sue Linde*
- *In Memory of Allen & Margaret Lusk and Susan Galvin from their family*
- *In Loving Memory of husband George Marich from Char and family*
- *In Memory of Thurie Mattson from Doris*
- *In Memory of Gayle (Curly) Morrison from wife Billie and sons Garry and Kevin and families*
- *In Loving Memory of my son Scott Lindvall, sister Diane Rendulich, brother Jerry Nelson, mother and father from Cheryl Paskett*
- *In Memory of Jackie Morris from Cheryl Paskett and Shari Mortorelli*
- *In Memory of John Nickila, Mr. & Mrs. William Toprock, Donna Tribou and Mr. & Mrs. Edward Nickila, Sr. from Claudia Nickila and family*
- *In Memory of Bruce Robnik and Paul Erickson from Karen Robnik*
- *In Memory of Vern Rominger from Cari Elliot and Linda Rominger*
- *In Loving Memory of Robert Davey, George Williamson, Ella Williamson, Harry & Marie Silverthorn, Paul Johnson, Victoria Peterson and Richard Larson from Dale & Donna Williamson, Heather & Kevin Conito and Nathan & Jill Williamson*





NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTIONS


1.

2.

3.

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2 AA Meeting 7 pm	3 Office 10-2	4
5 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	6 Lectionary Study 6 pm	7 AA Meeting 7 pm	8 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5-7 Choir 6 pm	9 AA Meeting 7 pm	10 Office 10-2	11
12 Worship 10:30	13 Lectionary Study 6 pm	14 Council 7pm Trustees & Diaconate 6pm AA Meeting 7 pm	15 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5-7	16 AA Meeting 7 pm	17 Office 10-2	18
19 Worship 10:30 Fuel Fund New Members & Renewal	20 Lectionary Study 6 pm M.L. King Jr. Day	21 AA Meeting 7 pm	22 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5-7 Choir 6 pm	23 AA Meeting 7 pm	24 Office 10-2	25 Ruby's Pantry 11:00 am
26 Worship 10:30 Annual Meeting & Potluck	27 Lectionary Study 6 pm	28 AA Meeting 7 pm	29 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5-7	30 AA Meeting 7 pm	31 Office 10-2	February 1
2 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	3 Lectionary Study 6 pm	4 AA Meeting 7 pm	5 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5-7	6 AA Meeting 7 pm	7 Office 10-2	8
9 Worship 10:30	10 Lectionary Study 6 pm	11 Council 7pm Trustees & Diaconate 6 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	12 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5-7 Choir 6 pm	13 AA Meeting 7 pm	14 Office 10-2 Valentine's Day	15

Coming Up in January

- January 1 *New Year's Day
- January 5 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- January 13 *New member/renewal of covenant question & answer meeting, 6 pm
- January 14 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30
- January 17 *Annual meeting reports due in office
- January 19 *Welcome new members/celebrate renewal of covenant
*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- January 20 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 25 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- January 26 *Annual Meeting & Potluck

Looking Ahead to February

- February 2 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- February 11 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- February 14 *Valentine's Day
- February 16 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- February 17 *Presidents' Day
- February 22 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm



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.



January Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Kayden Rengo | 10 Jason Rengo | 11 Cherie Ridoux |
| 14 Scott Nickila | 21 Karen Robnik | 25 Bonnie Stasiuk |
| 28 Amy Robnik | 28 John Grondahl | 29 Hailey Huberty |
| 29 Lydia Fasteland | 31 Jeremy Erickson | |

January Anniversaries

- 18 Cathy & Bill Dale

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.

January 2020

*100 Years
1917 - 2017*

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
And lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him,
And he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

