

# ***Tower Notes***

## ***July 2020***

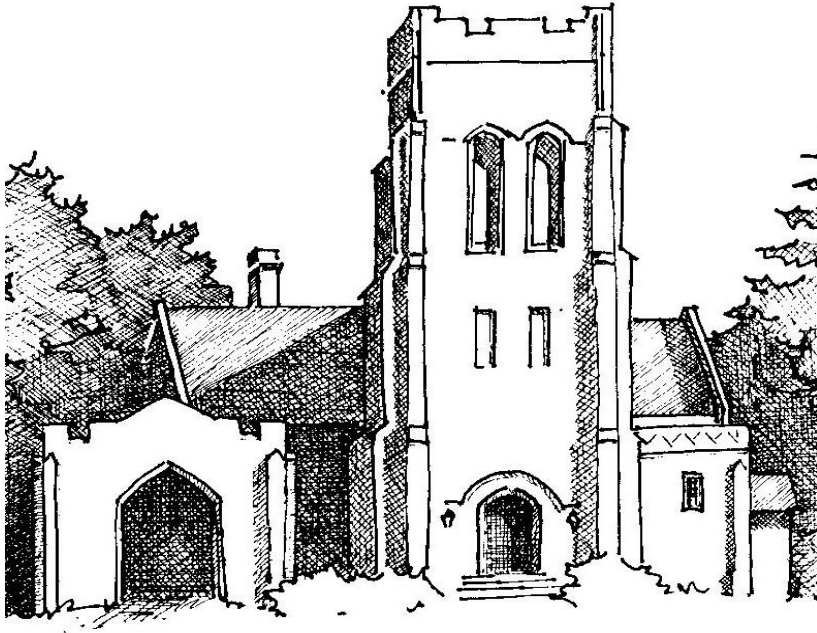
**United Protestant Church  
(UCC)**

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**

**Formal Worship Services are cancelled  
until further notice.**

**Pastor Paul is posting weekly sermons on YouTube.**

**Sermons are also available by email,  
or, if you would like a copy mailed to you  
please contact the church office**

**218-626-2570**

**office@unitedprotestantchurch.org**

## Pastor's Commentary

Well, here I am ready to head out for a few days in the Boundary Waters - excited like a retriever on a leash when a ball is thrown, but yes, still on the leash. I'm packing my gear and then "oh, I don't have this - I'll have to run up" and "ah, I forgot to do this before I go" and "argh, I certainly can't head out the door with *that thing* still pending!"

--And then, I breathe, and repeat the word that has been quick to find my lips for these past few months in my prayer: "Patience."

Those that I've talked to recently know that this is the word that is getting me through. I've described this time as akin to a snow globe. When shaken up, there is no physical action I can do to assist all of those whirling and swirling flakes in their goal of settling. I simply have to be as still as I can, as peaceful and kind as I can, and let it all settle.

God gives us that grace, should we choose to receive it. How many times does Jesus say "peace?" How many times does Jesus say "do not fear?" You think he'd leave us high and dry without resources and tools for a virtue he repeats so often? God has given you tools to find peace and comfort and kindness in the midst of discontent and fear, unique to you. My prayer is that you find the wisdom and strength to dip your cup into that sweet well of grace.

And, likewise, it helps me to remember that God has patience - with us. "Our Father who art in heaven" has a love that endures through some pretty funky moods and changes that we've gone through in our lives. Sometimes we're a kid in tantrum, sometimes we're a surly teenager, sometimes we ignore our faith, busy living our own life, sometimes we think God has abandoned us in our loneliness and sorrow. (And remember friends, these do not progress chronologically - we're a little bit of all of these in any time of our lives!) ..But God is there. God knows that sometimes the best thing to do is be patient and peaceful and kind.

Thanks, God, for that.

Pastor Paul

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Cheryl Paskett shared some photos taken at events prior to the CoVid-19 shutdown:



*Sanctuary decorated for Christmas*

*Cookies baked by church members for Bill Bastian & Highland Quartet concert on December 14*



*Valentine Cookies*



## AROUND UPC

### *Message from the Moderator*

Hello, All

Here we are in the middle of summer and I hope you're getting out and enjoying what God has given us. It has been hot and humid, which is annoying to a lot of us, but it won't be long and we'll be complaining that it's too cold, icy, snowy, etc. We get what God gives us, so let's be OK with it. On that note, I've been very stressed about a few personal issues and couldn't see any way that I could resolve them. I've talked to God about them and yesterday He gave me the correct solution to my most stressful of issues, so my comment here is: God does hear us when we talk to Him!!! And I give heartfelt thanks to Him!!

I had a question posed to me on Facebook. Is our church open? I went to church this past Sunday and I felt like we were open. Folks were in different pews and not all bunched together, most had masks on and everyone cleaned up their spaces after the service. No hand shaking or hugging, just greetings. I've been very uneasy about getting out anywhere since the middle of March and this was my first time back to our church. I felt at ease and confident about the experience. We're not "officially" open but we're working with the next best thing to it.

We also had our first Council meeting since March. I wanted to touch bases on a few things. We talked about finances and a few events we might be able to hold later in the year. We'll have more regarding any events when we see how the Covid-19 is spreading.

Stay safe, everyone, and hopefully see you in church at some point.

Karen Robnik, Moderator

\* \* \* \* \*

### *Remember in Prayer: Joys and Concerns*

\*The Behm family - Kevin's father recently passed away.

\*Sandie Chelstrom's granddaughter has been diagnosed with wide-spread cancer.

\*The family of Janet "Bubbles" Olcott, who passed away on June 29.

\*Members and friends who are facing health challenges.

\*Those who have been impacted by the corona virus, and all who work in healthcare and/or keep our essential services and supply lines going.

\*Those who are unable to be with us.

\*Prayer Chain: If you would like prayer for yourself, family or friends, contact Sue Linde at 626-1272.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Now the Lord is the Spirit,  
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is freedom.*

~ 2 Corinthians 3:17

### **Thank You**

\*\*To all who came out on June 6 to hand out face masks. The seamstresses produced a large number of colorful masks in adult and children's sizes.

\*\*To the lawn & flower bed crews for keeping up with mowing and watering.

\*\*To the cleaning people who keep things neat and clean.

\*\*Thanks to all who have been wearing masks and practicing hygiene and social distancing protocols when they come into the church.

\*\*Thank you to Cathy Dale and Linda Bray for sharing their inspiring music for Sunday worship.

\*\*Thank you to members and friends for sending in your offerings during this time. We rely heavily on plate giving to meet expenses and there is no endowment to see us through lean times. What you give makes a difference.

### **New Members**

On January 19, Zach Geissler, Judi Gaskill, Collette Illy, Kathy Lee, Shirley Letica and Tim Olson were welcomed as new members to UPC, and Sheldean Ion reaffirmed her membership.



L-R: Collette Illy, Shirley Letica, Sheldean Ion, Kathy Lee, and Zach Geissler.

\* \* \* \* \*

Zach's recipe for Fast & Easy Rolls

Combine:

3/4 cup warm water (not hot)

2 pkgs dry yeast

Let soak until foamy

Mix into yeast mixture:

1/2 cup white sugar      1/4 cup shortening

1 tsp salt                      1/4 cup butter

2 eggs, beaten                4 cups sifted flour

Let rise for 1 1/2 hours. Form into rolls or butter horns.

Bake at 350 for 12-15 minutes. Cool and enjoy!

# UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

## July 2020

| Sun       | Mon       | Tue       | Wed                      | Thu       | Fri                      | Sat                                                                                             |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           |           |           | <b>1</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>4</b><br> |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>11</b>                                                                                       |
| <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>18</b>                                                                                       |
| <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>25</b><br>Ruby's<br>Pantry<br>11:00 am                                                       |
| <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>August 1</b>                                                                                 |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>8</b>                                                                                        |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>Office 10-2 | <b>15</b>                                                                                       |

# ALL MEETINGS, GATHERINGS & EVENTS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

## Coming Up in July

- July 4           \*Independence Day
- July 5           \*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- July 14          \*Council Meeting 7:00 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:00 pm
- July 19          \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- July 25          \*Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 521 131st Avenue W., 11 am-12:30 pm

## Looking Ahead to August

- August 2        \*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- August 11       \*Council Meeting, 7:00 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:00 pm
- August 16       \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- August 22       \*Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm

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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, 5-7 pm: 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.



### July Birthdays

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

### July Anniversaries

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

## **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.*

*July 2020*

*100 Years  
1917 - 2017*

*God, we thank You  
for our country free.  
Teach us the duties and  
costs of liberty.*

~ Fred Bauer

