

Tower Notes

June 2020

**United Protestant Church
(UCC)**

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

office@unitedprotestantchurch.org
[facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch](https://www.facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch)

Pastor

Rev. Paul VanAntwerp
218-349-0143
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**Worship Schedule: Sunday at 10:30 AM
YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US EVERY WEEK**

**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

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Pastor's Commentary

I write this in a time when we need our church more than ever. I write in a time when the world needs our church more than ever.

We need church - not for the purpose of standing up and speaking with moral authority, but for the practice of humility. Churches, like people, never have the right to stand over somebody and project critique for the way we think they are doing things wrong. Quite the opposite, really. We sit down beside them, or kneel before them, and say "I honor you for who you are. Can we share our stories?"

We need church - not to provide the final definitive answer in a confusing culture of conflict and discord, but to offer a path that each of us can take, should we chose to do so. It is not only a path that illuminates God's presence with us in every step, not only a path that keeps us focused on love and humanity, but also one that challenges our judgments and biases, that we may give deference to our higher calling as disciples.

We need church - not as a starting point for a solo journey into our faith, but to walk with one another, sharing our journey. Celebrating each other's joys. Consoling one another's sorrows.

We need church as a place of comfort. A place of sanctuary. A church where we can sit quiet and pray, and a church where we know that others are praying for us.

In last week's sermon, I shared these words: *These are the moments we are made for. These are the moments where God's last word of love is ringing off our lips and moving through our hands and heads and hearts. This is precisely the time our faith should shine.*

So friends, let us be that church. A church of humility and of understanding. A church that walks God's path as disciples, both nurtured and challenged. A church where we know we are never alone. A church that shares peace in God's presence, and a church that provides a presence of peace in a tumultuous world.

We're in this together, friends. Keep in touch.

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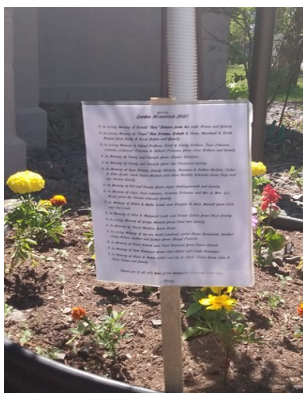
### The Transforming of the Memorial Garden 2020

(by Marna Fasteland)

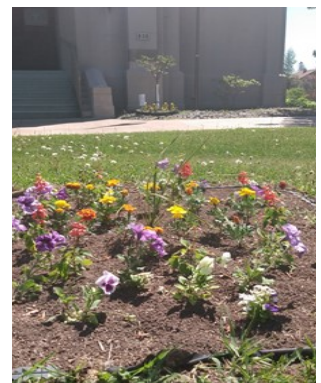


Thank you to everyone who gave memorials for Easter memorials that never occurred. Those memorials went into the planting of flowers in front of the church (see memorial list in this newsletter). Here are some pictures of the garden. First from the beginning of May when the weeds started growing!

Mike and Marna prepared the flower bed on May 16. Before we could do much of anything we had to dig out the root mass of the Mugo Pine that used to grow there! Thank you to folks a couple of years ago who sawed off lots of the roots. Here is what the root mass looked like:



The flowers were planted on Friday, May 22 by Karen Robnik, Collette Illy and Marna. We hope you can take a few minutes to enjoy the flowers!



## AROUND UPC

### **Message from the Moderator**

Hello to All:

First off, I'd like to say a big "Thank You" to Clarice and Pastor Paul for keeping us up on what's going on with UP church. You two should be aware of how important it is to all of us to be kept in touch with our church. The weekly updates, the monthly newsletter and the Sunday YouTube videos of the service are wonderful. Hopefully, it won't be long until we can get together on a Sunday morning again, but, when we do get together, we will need to be using social distancing and face masks at least for the time being.

We will be giving face masks out to the community on June 6. It will be outside the church, and we will have a table set up between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM. If anyone wants to make masks we would appreciate it. We have three sewers working on the project, but could always use more.

Thank you to the Fastelands for getting that huge root removed from the front of the church. We've been covering it up with dirt and flowers for the past few years, but now it won't be a problem. Check out the front of the church. Marna used the Easter lily donations to purchase flower plants which a few of us planted last week. She also posted the list of folks who donated for these flowers.

Again, stay safe and we'll get together again one of these days!

Karen Robnik, Moderator

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\*Remember the Lowe family - Jim's mother, Patricia, recently passed away.

\*Members and friends who are facing health challenges.

\*Those who work in healthcare and those who 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Thank You**

\*\*Thanks to the crew who have mowed the church lawn and weeded and planted flower beds.

\*\*Thank you to Marna Fasteland for purchasing flowers for a Memorial Garden, and coordinating planting.

\*\*Thank you to members and friends for sending in your offerings. Expenses still continue, and what you give makes a difference.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Garden Memorials 2020**

*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, 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 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 Joyce, Paul Johnson, Victoria Peterson and Mr. & Mrs. G.L. Meyer from the Chester Johnson family

† In Memory of Edwin & Mable Linde and Douglas & Alice Merrill from Dick & Sue Linde

† In Memory of Allen & Margaret Lusk and Susan Galvin from their family

† In Loving Memory of George Marich from Char and family

† In Memory of Thurie Mattson from Doris

† In Loving Memory of my son Scott Lindvall, sister Diane Rendulich, brother Jerry Nelson, mother and father from Cheryl Paskett

† In Memory of Bruce Robnik and Paul Erickson from Karen Robnik

† In Memory of Vern Rominger from Cari Elliot and Linda Rominger

† In Memory of Helen & Anton Lehti and Ila & Jacob Toman from John & Doris Toman and family

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Helping Hands!**

A few folks from UP Church have been busy sewing face masks for Morgan Park folks. We will be handing out the masks on Saturday, June 6, from 10 am until noon. We are hoping the weather is nice so we can be set up at a table outside the front of the church. Please spread the word to Morgan Park friends and neighbors (or anyone that may need a face mask) that they can stop by to pick up a face mask. There is no charge for the masks.

(Our thanks to Doris Toman for sending along this sermon which was prepared by Phil Garrison for World Wide Communion Sunday, October 1, 1998)

## All in the Life of a Sidewalk

Anybody here have a word about your homework from last Sunday – Who or what has been a refuge in your life & when or where have you offered one to others?

Last Tuesday I drove into Morgan Park and went by the church on Arbor Street and parked over there by Ina's. As I drove by, there were a coupla' church guys hangin' around the front, hands in their pockets, looked like they were countin' cars, or keepin' track of license plates, or something. Well, it turned out it was Rick (Mortenson) and Thurie (Mattson). So I went inside the church and got 'em a pencil and paper so as they could keep track of just who it was that went by, in which car, how fast they were scurryin' around the bend, and who was with 'em and all that sort o' thing. But it turns out they were just enjoyin' the sun, one another's company, and waiting for the contract cement fellas to come by and break up the front sidewalk that had kinda heaved and cracked up in recent years. Now, for any of you that want to see these two young men of Morgan Park Church hard at work, I captured 'em on film and their likeness is hangin' on one of the corkboard room-dividers downstairs. Take a look when you go downstairs for coffee.

Well, the quilters were here that day too. You know, it's a lot of work trying to keep that group under control – they were sooo rambunctious and make such a lot of noise. Anyway I tried to take their pictures as well that day....but they said they weren't dressed for the occasion....and my camera didn't have enough light anyway. So the only ones I caught were Rick and Thurie.

So while these two were watchin' and studyin' to make sure it was done just right - I got to wonderin' what it would have been like to be that sidewalk in front of the church for the last 76 years or so. That's a long time. Now it's true that some of you here can remember back that far – but not too many of ya'. So I selected a chunk of the walk and brought it in here and this is what it told me:

*Back in the old days of Morgan Park was when I came to be. It was 1922 or so. The steel plant stacks were belching their smoke and things were busy and fresh and new. So the guys from the cement plant came out here to the church and leveled and laid the forms and poured my shape. I was made strong from the start at a thickness of 8 inches or more.*

*Who would have thought I'd have the privilege of being here this long. It's sad to be pulled up – but I was becoming kind of a hazard for some folks who were concerned they'd trip.*

*That wacky preacher you got here now asked me to tell you a few things this mornin', of things I'd learned over the years and stories I'd heard and the like.*

*So I'll go back a ways – I used to be real busy several times a week, in addition to the church services. For instance back in the 30's when I was about 9 or 10 years old they had something like 150 youngsters and 5 or 6 adults that would gather here on Saturday mornings at 10:00 for a thing called "Story Hour". If I remember right, a group of the kids stood out here laughin' one February; there was a misunderstandin' of one kind or another and there was no story teller – so the adults asked the kids if any of them had a story and Robert McCoy volunteered and he told some story that everyone liked real well. They thought that was pretty funny.*

*And I'll never forget that summer when I was just four or five they had the Sunday school picnic right here in the yard. There was lots of running around and playing. So the adults had ordered 30 dozen Eskimo Pies from the Bridgeman-Russell company for the event. And oh, I had chocolate on me & ice cream drippings for at least the next couple of rain showers. But you know what I remember about those Eskimo Pies? I overheard the Sunday School Superintendent tell one of the parents, all 30 dozen of them cost the Sunday school \$12.50. Yep, that's right, 12 dollars and 50 cents.*

*Or there was the time Rev. Ramshaw and some old fella from the church were standin' on me talkin'. And after a time the Rev., he asked the older fella if he had been doin' any serious thinkin' about the **hereafter**. The old feller paused for a moment or two, thinkin', and finally he says to the Rev., "Well, yes sir as a matter of fact I have. Seems as though every time I go into the kitchen or out to the garage, I'm askin' myself, now what did I come here after."*

*A little more seriously, those were the times when the depression was going strong. People used to come here, cause the doors were never locked in those days. They'd come alone and stand on me for a time or scurry across me and they would go inside and sit alone for a time. Sometimes their eyes would be all red from crying when they came out and all I could figure was they had been in there praying and telling God how hard it was for 'em and unfair. And then in the 40's they did that same thing again when the second world war was goin' on. People came*

*here to be alone and to pray and to ask for God's help with their heartaches and their daily lives. I felt a closeness to those individuals that came here and walked on me alone with so much on their hearts.*

*And there have been so many funerals - some years there have been more than others – in 1932, Rev. Ramshaw officiated at something like 45 and Rev. Bennett did 18 in 1970. People feel a lot heavier at funerals. It's like they are so full of memories and sadness and longing and wonderment and faith that they weigh more. I have felt their burdens.*

*And lots of weddings with people standing on the steps and bouncing down to me – and in the old days, when it was allowed, they threw rice. I remember some of it almost germinated in one of my cracks one time and tried to grow. Anyway at these times people were almost feather light – it was like their weight wasn't even really on me – almost like they were floating on joy and laughter and love.*

*And there have been so many special events for the church and for the community at large – it's been wonderful. I could go on and on about some of the stories and gossip I've collected – but this doesn't seem to be the time or place – so I'll just tell you about one time because I've been wanting to tell you that your singing is a little half-hearted over the last several months when you gather for Sunday mornings - it's kind of like you are afraid to be too exuberant – I kinda wish you'd sing like you used to in the old days – strong and loud – even if you are a little off key I like your joy. Well, this one Christmas, you sang this carol I hadn't heard before but it seemed you sure like it a lot. That wacky preacher you got found this in one of the old files on Christmas and the like. One of the verses went something like this (to the tune of "O Christmas Tree"):*

*O lutefisk, o lutefisk, I put you by the door way  
I wanted you to ripen up, just like dey do in Norway  
A dog came by and sprinkled you, I hit him wid an army shoe  
O lutefisk, now I suppose  
I'll eat you as I hold my nose*

*All kinds of people have walked on me, run on me, stood for a time on me. The young ones and the wealthy ones and the poor ones and the old ones and the ones who were alone and lonely and those who came with family and were full. People came here to pray, I guess, and sing, and to wonder about God, and to be together.*

Thank you, sidewalk, for helping us to remember today the richness and texture of the history of this congregation.

Jesse read to you this morning from Paul's second letter to his friend Timothy. He wrote to let Timothy know he knew that times were not always easy or clear and to remind Timothy that he missed him and looked forward to the pleasure of being in his company again.

And Paul wrote a very simple sentence in the letter:

God has not given us fear or shyness or timidity  
But we have been given instead  
Power and love and the potential of disciplined lives.  
We have been gifted  
the power  
the love  
the potential  
by God  
To bring in the new creation  
To be about building up not tearing down  
To be ones of forgiveness and grace  
not ones of resentment and anger


Let the new sidewalk be a symbol.

There have been wonderful, joyful, rich times in the life of this community of faith - and there have been times of aching, heart wrenching poverty in its life.

Out front there is a new sidewalk prepared to hold us, and to collect our stories for the next 76 years or so. We have been given the gifts, by God, according to Jesse's reading this morning, to make strong stories of love for that walk's history.

# UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

## June 2020

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

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

## Coming Up in June

- June 3 \*Women's Fellowship
- June 7 \*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- June 9 \*Council Meeting 7:00 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:00 pm
- June 20 \*First Day of Summer
- June 21 \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund  
\*Father's Day
- June 27 \*Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 521 131st Avenue W., 11 am-12:30 pm  
NOTE: Ruby's Pantry distribution continues during the Covid-19 shutdown

## Looking Ahead to 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, 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.



June Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Mike Rapaich | 9 Todd Nickila | 18 Donna Benson |
| 19 Charlotte Patricia Lowe | 27 Ernie Strandberg | |

June Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Jeri & Keith Erickson | 11 Jill & Nathan Williamson |
| 29 Karen & Ken Donald | 30 Beth & Peter Bagley |

Learn more at facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch

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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.

June 2020

*100 Years
1917 - 2017*

***God has given each of you
some special abilities;
be sure to use them to help each other,
passing on to others
God's many kinds of blessings.***

1 Peter 4:10

