

Tower Notes

March 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

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|-----------------|---|
| March 1 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Communion, Food Shelf
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| March 8 | Daylight Saving Time begins 2:00 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| March 15 | Worship Service 10:30 AM
Second Offering - Fuel Fund |
| March 22 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |
| March 29 | Worship Service 10:30 AM |



Pastor's Commentary

Confession: I am a list maker, to such an extent that I'll find myself making multiple lists. Worse: often one of the items on one of the lists is to "organize the lists." I may have a problem here, and I'm sure there is a medication that could assist me, but I make these lists because (having a mind that so often swings from branch to branch like an energetic monkey) I'm always concerned that I'll forget important things, and others will be negatively affected by absent-mindedness. In any event, one of those lists recently was a collection of ideas and ideologies that I've taken to heart and lifted up as "practical wisdom" to be used in my everyday life. See: I hear and I say a lot of things in preaching and teaching and counseling specific to a particular question or situation, but often I find myself in self-reflection, thinking: *you need to remember this one in your own life!* Friends, that list was over two pages long.

But here's our reality: even the best ideas and wisdom are impossible to follow all of the time. My hand is raised here to personally name it and claim it: I stumble, I falter, I make bonehead choices and lose track of my values and have less than loving interactions in my life. I'm human. So here's the good news: lots of times, I catch it, sometimes days later than I probably should, but hey - even catching it late, and re-thinking thoughts or behaviors, means that I'm utilizing the wisdom with increased frequency. Better than nothing, right? Better late than never. Practice makes perfect. Any other clichés fit there?

The point is that every time I make a choice to change my behavior or attitude, I begin, quite literally, to live *as that person* that I want to be. Through repetition, I literally *become* that person. Those choices built on wisdom remembered become who I am every day.

Churches do this, too. Communities like ours certainly know what right-relationship and good behavior qualify as wisdom in our shared life. We know "best practices." We were talking about this recently in fellowship: as an individual, when one of us is unhappy with a church decision, action, or behavior of another member, we know best practice is to explain our feelings clearly and calmly, and lift them up to our elected leadership team that they may address matters respectfully in their covenant time together. Does it always go as planned? No. We gossip and gripe, we pass judgment lacking fact and triangulate in passive aggressive manners. But every time we catch the error of our ways—every time we recall who we want to be and name the right behavior, we are practicing our faith and becoming those people and that church that we want to be. Our hope is that it gets easier, more familiar. Churches, like people, continue to grow up. Continue to become wise.

Christians repeat themselves often...telling the same story year after year. This is not because anybody suspects you might have forgotten, but because we've learned to keep at it, keep improving. That's why we have Holy Week every year. Because it still matters. And be it list or lectionary, repetition of wisdom and best practices helps us to become our best selves.

Rev. Paul VanAntwerp

Message from the Moderator

Hello, all

I hope everyone is well and the colds & flu have bypassed most of us! For those of you who have been afflicted with those pesky issues, prayers are with you. Get well!!

The Council met this month with new faces and new ideas. It's really great to get a fresh insight on some of the church's issues and accomplishments. Watch for new events on the way!

One of the things voted on was to install security cameras at all the entrances so we will be able to see and report any wrong doing to our church. The money for this will be coming out of the Memorial Fund. This is something that's been talked about for a while and was finally brought to a head with the profanity that was carved into our front door.

If anyone has ideas on special events that we can do in the early months of next year, please let me know.

Stay warm and see you in church!

Karen Robnik, Moderator

AROUND UPC

Remember in Prayer: Joys and Concerns

*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.

Thank You

**Thanks to all who helped make doughnuts and bake & decorate Valentine cookies. Plates of cookies were taken to people who are home-bound or find it hard to get to church.
**Thank you to all who helped decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for the season.
**The choir continues to share their musical talents, and Linda Bray & Ashley Lund join us when they can.

Congratulations

Shirley Letica is nominated for a Rosie Award (recognizing women as a driving force).

Bakeless Bake Sale

Women's Fellowship has begun collecting donations for a Bakeless Bake Sale. Donations are used for such things as the church fuel fund, Union Gospel Mission, CHUM, Salvation Army, Bethany Crisis Shelter. Collection will continue to June 1. Make checks payable to Women's Fellowship and return to Char Marich or Doris Toman, or simply drop your envelope in the collection plate. Your support is appreciated.

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Holy Week at United Protestant Church

Wednesday, April 8: Easter Egg coloring (for kids and community), 5-7 pm (during community potluck)

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday Gathering, 6 pm
A humble gathering and conversation to center us for our most important story.

Friday, April 10: Good Friday Ecumenical Service, 7 pm
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 4831 Grand Avenue
West Duluth clergy and congregations will share in worship. Note: Volunteers needed; please contact Pastor Paul if interested.

Saturday, April 11: Easter Egg Hunt
Watch for more details.



Sunday, April 12: Easter Service, 10:30 am
(Breakfast at 9 am) Watch for more details.

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2020 Financial Report – year to date (as of 2/29/20)

Income:	\$ 6,340
Expenses:	<u>10,408</u>
Difference:	\$ - 4,067

Easter Memorials

Marna Fastland will coordinate memorials of lilies to decorate the altar at Easter. Cost is \$10 for a lily (includes line memorial) or \$5 for line memorial. Please get your order to Marna (phone 384-9872) by April 5. Make checks payable to Marna. Lilies may be taken home after Easter service on April 12.

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Save the Date!

April 26: Olive Garden Spaghetti Dinner, 12-2 pm
Featuring Olive Garden sauce, salad dressing, and Breadsticks. Meatballs. Desserts.

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From UCC Website:

Church leaders urge education, caution and common sense as U.S. coronavirus cases increase

Coronavirus (CoVid –19) is a respiratory illness that causes flu-like symptoms. Typical symptoms include fever and a cough that may progress to pneumonia, causing breathing difficulties, including shortness of breath. Most people who get it will contract a mild to moderate illness, a bit like flu. Generally, Coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer or chronic lung disease.

PRECAUTIONS:


- *Stay home if you are sick.
 - *Wash your hands frequently.
 - *Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
 - *Disinfect surfaces used regularly.
 - *Use hand sanitizer.
 - *Avoid close contact with someone who is sick.
- If you have traveled internationally during the last 14 days, feel sick with fever or cough, or have difficulty breathing, CDC recommends:
- *Seek medical advice. Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room.
 - *Tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
 - *Avoid contact with others.
 - *Do not travel while sick.
 - *Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
 - *Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based sanitizer that contains 60% to 95% alcohol immediately after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.

More information: UCC.org, UCC Minnesota website, Minnesota Department of Health website

Typo: In February newsletter, under Memorials, Dennis Maki's last name was misspelled. We apologize.

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	2 Lectionary Study 6 pm	3	4 Office 10-2 Women's Fellowship 1:30 Grill's On 5-7	5 AA Meeting 7 pm	6 Office 10-2	7
8 Worship 10:30 Daylight Saving Time begins 2 am	9 Lectionary Study 6 pm	10 Council 7pm Trustees & Diaconate 6pm	11 Office 10-2 History Work Day Grill's On 5-7 Choir 6 pm	12 AA Meeting 7 pm	13 Office 10-2	14
15 Worship 10:30 Fuel Fund	16 Lectionary Study 6 pm	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5-7	19 AA Meeting 7 pm	20 Office 10-2	21
22 Worship 10:30	23 Lectionary Study 6 pm	24	25 Office 10-2 History Work Day Grill's On 5-7 Choir 6 pm	26 AA Meeting 7 pm	27 Office 10-2	28 Ruby's Pantry 11:00 am
29 Worship 10:30	30 Lectionary Study 6 pm	31	April 1 Office 10-2 Women's Fellowship 1:30 Grill's On 5-7	2 AA Meeting 7 pm	3 Office 10-2	4
5 Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	6 Lectionary Study 6 pm	7	8 Office 10-2 History Work Day Grill's On 5-7 Choir 6 pm	9 Maundy Thursday AA Meeting 7 pm	10 Office 10-2 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Breakfast at 9:00 Worship 10:30	13 Lectionary Study 6 pm	14 Council 7pm Trustees & Diaconate 6 pm	15 Office 10-2 Grill's On 5-7	16 AA Meeting 7 pm	17 Office 10-2	18

Coming Up in March

- March 1 *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- March 4 *Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- March 8 ***Daylight Saving Time begins, 2:00 am - Set clocks AHEAD one hour**
- March 10 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30
- March 15 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- March 17 *St. Patrick's Day
- March 19 *First Day of Spring
- March 22 *Chicken Parmesan Dinner, Norton Park UMC, 12-2 pm, \$11/adult, \$6/children 3-10. Call Claudia (218-269-3508) by March 8 for tickets.
- March 26 *Senior Spring Brunch, Gary New Duluth Rec Center, 10:30-12:30. Meet City Councilor Derek Medved. RSVP 218-390-6926 by March 22.
- March 28 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm

Looking Ahead to April

- April 1 *Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- April 5 *Palm Sunday
- *Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- April 9 *Maundy Thursday Gathering, 6 pm
- April 10 *Good Friday
- April 12 *Easter - breakfast 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall
- April 14 *Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Trustees & Diaconate 6:30 pm
- April 19 *Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- April 25 *Ruby's Pantry at Mission Creek Church, 11 am-12:30 pm
- April 26 *Olive Garden Spaghetti Dinner, 12 Noon

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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.



March Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Patricia Myers | 3 Clarice Erickson | 6 Michael Erickson |
| 18 Andrew Erickson | 26 Charlene Marich | 27 Dan Rapaich |

March Anniversaries

None

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.

March 2020

*100 Years
1917 - 2017*

***HIDE not your talents,
they for use were made;
What's a sun-dial in the shade?***

~ Benjamin Franklin

