

# ***Tower Notes***

## ***October 2021***

**United Protestant Church  
(UCC)**

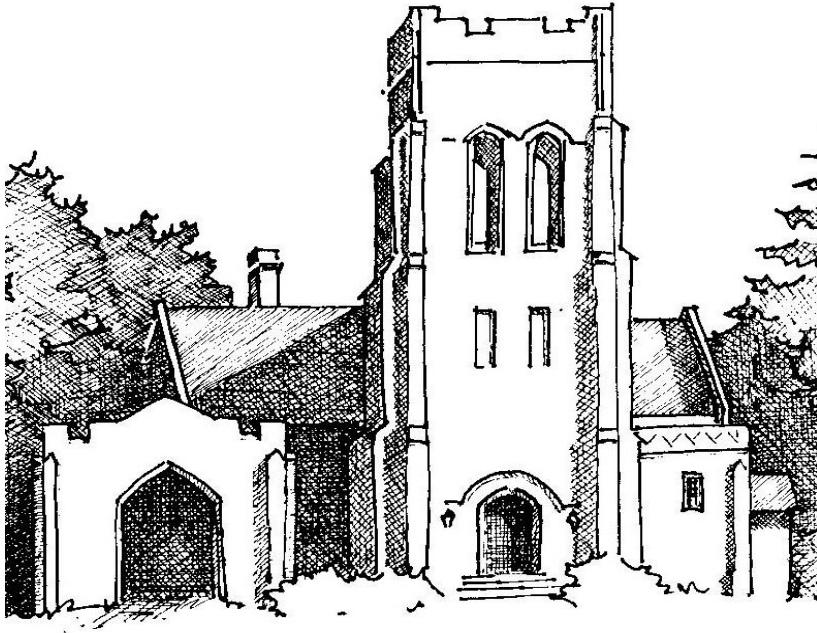
in Morgan Park  
830 88th Avenue West  
Duluth, MN 55808  
218-626-2570

office@unitedprotestantchurch.org  
facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch

### **Pastor**

Rev. Mitchell Nelson  
612-845-3839

Office Hours: Mon (11-3) & Wed (2-5)  
pastor@unitedprotestantchurch.org



**Worship Schedule: Sunday at 10:30 AM**  
**YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US EVERY WEEK**

**Our church is open for worship.  
It is recommended masks be worn in public, indoor spaces  
by everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in counties  
with substantial or high rates of transmission of CoVid-19.  
St. Louis County is in "HIGH" transmission category.**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>October 3</b>  | <b>Worship Service 10:30 am<br/>Communion<br/>Fuel Fund, Food Shelf</b> |
| <b>October 10</b> | <b>Worship Service 10:30 am</b>   |
| <b>October 17</b> | <b>Worship Service 10:30 am<br/>Fuel Fund</b>                           |
| <b>October 24</b> | <b>Worship Service 10:30 am</b>   |
| <b>October 31</b> | <b>Worship Service 10:30 am<br/>All Saints Day Observance</b>           |

**Worship videos will be available  
on YouTube and Facebook**

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Everyone,

This has been a very enriching past month for myself in learning more about United Protestant, Morgan Park, and the Duluth area. One thing I have become aware of is the rich resources of kind Clergy folks retired and working in the area. I have been connecting with the West Duluth Clergy Cluster, the NE MN UCC Clergy Cluster, and got to meet a good number of Clergy that have served United Protestant in the past on the 100 year anniversary celebration.

My hope is as I learn about all these wonderful connection with Clergy, other Churches, and community involvement opportunities, that I can create some new connections and revitalize past ones as we move forward into the 100th year of the Church. I look forward to learning more from all of you with more visitations in the future.

In looking solely at United Protestant Church I see two attributes, the first and most important is all of you as members and friends of the Church. I admire how each one of you in your own way contribute and care for the Church and one another. From the prayer circle to coffee socials after services you all make this church a special place. The other is the Church building itself. Not only is it a wonderful piece of history, you all have taken care of it well. The Church Council is looking into further care and revitalization of the building that they will be sharing in the next couple of months. There is a lot going on here in the living spirit of this Church. I just want to acknowledge that and give from myself to that spirit as someone new with a positive outlook on the future. United Protestant Church is a sacred special place and my hope is that it is treated as that in the future.

Thank you for inviting me to serve with all of you,  
Pastor Mitch

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## COMMENTARY

**Marna Fasteland**

When Pastor Mitch started in September I figured I was done with newsletter commentaries, but here I am back at it already!

I stopped by church recently and Clarice showed me an article written by Pastor Paul Scaringi of United Protestant Church in Silver Bay. I read it and told her that I thought we should include it in our newsletter, so here it is (with thanks to Pastor Paul for graciously allowing us to reprint his message):

*“You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ~ James 1:19-20*

“I recently had a conversation with a fellow who was recounting what life was like years ago. In the midst of the conversation he turned to matters of faith. As he thought back to when he was a younger person he bemoaned the fact that Christianity is not held in the same regard as it once was and the Church does not hold the same authority it did when he was growing up.

“I did not argue this point. Indeed, on one level it is hard to argue against. Over the last 75 years the influence of the Christian church has waned in our society. Church attendance - across denominational lines - continues to decline, at what some would say is alarming rates. No longer does society seek out the opinion of church leaders or clergy on matters of importance for the nation or the local community. All of which leaves many, like my new-found friend, wringing their proverbial hands and trying to come up with ways to return to that life.

“While I will not argue against his assessment of where we are today as opposed to then, I fail to see the benefit of trying to return to a supposed ‘ideal’ time of Christianity in our country. I know some will argue with me on this point but I do not believe we are called to make sure our country - no matter how dearly we hold our citizenship in these United States, which I do - operates by our standards or identifies itself as a Christian nation. What matters, as the book of James so clearly lays before us, is that we, who call ourselves to be followers of Christ, act in ways that reflect our love for Christ and one another. Hence James’ challenging words of ‘quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.’

“The church that received this letter from James was not troubled because their past was more rosy than their present, they were troubled because their present was difficult and their future looked bleak. This was a community who in future generations would face the tragic persecutions of the Roman government. They most likely just witnessed the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD and the destruction of the temple. It was an extremely trying time.

“And into that time comes a letter from James that is surprisingly straight-forward and grounded in daily life. James does not address the supposedly big questions of the church’s future, of what the government will or will not do, or even, most importantly, how the current events will factor into Jesus’ return. No, in 5 short chapters we find wise and succinct directives addressing what it means to live in the present as a follower of Jesus.

“James puts before them a vision of faith where our daily lives matter and our love for one another is only surpassed by our love of God. The letter does not deny the troubles of the world and how the world does not accept the faith. Yet what others think of the faith is not to be the primary concern for the church, which is astounding considering the hostile attitude that was already developing towards Christianity at this time. James calls the people who have been scattered by forces beyond their control (‘the twelve tribes in the Dispersion’ - 1:1) to pay attention to how they live out their life. To be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger.

“In this day when there are those who seem intent on stoking the flames of fear and anger over the state of Christianity within our culture and what our future will be, we would do well to remember how those first converts to Christianity handled the uncertainty of life. They did it by placing their trust in God’s steadfast love and living out their lives faithfully (not perfectly but faithfully). In heeding the call to follow the ways of Jesus, the Lord carried them through challenging times and delivered them from their trials as the Body of Christ.

“When we encounter those who fret about our faith, our country and our future, let us hold close to what James tells us. For in being quick to listen and slow to speak, we give the Holy Spirit a chance to move in our lives and to remind us that our hope is grounded in the presence of our living and loving Lord, the One who will remain with us and lead us onward.” Blessings, Pastor Paul

I could probably write several pages about why this article was another of those “gentle nudges” for me, but with one arm in a cast, my typing is very slow so I will skip the in-depth commentary! But, here are a few of the things mentioned in this article that resonated with me:

I know that I have often heard folks here and in other churches lament about the good old days when church pews were packed and offering plates were full. I have even thought that a few times.

It has been (and continues to be) an extremely trying time right now due to the pandemic, climate change, divisive politics, racial inequality, and many other difficult challenges.

I read the Book of James many years ago and found it timely and easy to understand. I read it again today (it is only 5 chapters long) and many of the insights Pastor Scaringi shared in his article jumped out at me.

We are living in a world that is vastly different from the good old days. We can pine for the good old days to return, but realistically that isn’t going to happen. And quite frankly, I do not want to return to the good old days because I do believe we have made some small advances in diversity that did not exist previously. And how, can we as followers of Jesus move forward in these difficult times? As Pastor Scaringi recommends, look to the Book of James to find “wise and succinct directives addressing what it means to live in the present as a follower of Jesus.” Here are a few of those “directives” that nudged me when I read James again.

James 1:19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.

James 2:8 You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?

James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin.

I know that we could probably have hours-long discussions about this article and the Book of James. I am sharing all this because it felt like that is what I should do. I am a UP church member trying to be open to the “nudges” that will help me to faithfully find my way forward as a follower of Jesus in 2021. I hope you all would be willing to share your thoughts and ideas about your faith in future newsletters!

Grace and Peace,  
Marna

## **Message from the Moderator**

Hello to all and happy fall!

I was just looking back at last year's message in which I talked about the Covid issue restricting us so much but still being grateful for the things we did have and could do. Fall colors being one thing to be grateful for and family and friends being another important thing. This year the Covid issue is still with us, but we don't seem to be as worried about it. I'm not sure why this is, but maybe it's because we weathered it once and we can do it again. Or maybe it's because most of us have been vaccinated and the threat of Covid isn't as serious of a health issue. Either way, we still have the wonderful fall colors and we still have the comfort of family and friends. God is good!!

I went to my first ever Bible study last Wednesday. It was very interesting and I'm looking forward to this Wednesday. Getting to know more about the Bible and its characters has always interested me, and Pastor Mitch is a very good teacher. Come join us if you can.

Several things were discussed at the last Council meeting:

1. We found out that our balloon payment on our mortgage is up the first of December and we have the option of a possible refinance. We decided to find out if we could refinance adding an additional amount to the mortgage balance to be able to do necessary upkeep on our building. We will keep you informed of progress.
2. It was decided to cancel the Halloween Carnival again this year due to the uptick in Covid cases. We want to do a "Trunk or Treat" event if we get enough cars. We will need at least 12 cars involved so let either the office, me, or Cari know if you want to participate. The event will be held on October 31 between 3:00 to 5:00 so cars should start arriving for lining up around 2:30. Decorating of cars and dressing in costumes is encouraged.
3. Due to the recent break-ins in our church we will be installing a new security system and security cameras. We will let everyone know how and when this will happen.
4. Work on our sewer system will be starting by the middle of October. As it is now, the sewer could back up with any use of it. It needs to be fixed before we can hold any events.

As you can see, we've been busy and I'm sure I've forgotten to mention other things that were dealt with.

Keep us in your prayers and as always, we need the support of everyone.

See you in church!

Karen Robnik, Moderator

## AROUND UPC

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

\*The family of June Bothun. June passed away on Sept. 27.

\*Maria Gross, Bonnie Stasiuk's brother Bob, and Sandie Chelstrom's niece Paige are all dealing with cancer.

\*Faye Hietala had pacemaker procedure on Sept. 15.

\*Marna Fasteland is in a cast after breaking her arm.

\*Ray Merila has moved to 702 Horizon Circle, Apt. 707, Cloquet, MN 55720.

\*Ernie St. George returned home on Sept. 12 after spending several months working in China.

\*Hold in prayer: All named and unnamed family and friends facing health and other challenges.

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

### ALL SAINTS DAY

As part of an All Saints Day observance on October 31, we will light candles in honor of loved ones who have passed away. Please send the names of those you would like remembered to the office by October 29. The following family and friends left us in the past 12 months.

*Bill Dale*  
December 8

*Lucille Kolberg*  
March 3

*John Toman Sr.*  
March 11

*Caroline Caywood*  
May 29

*Barbara Herrington*  
June 4

*Edward Leese*  
July 6

*June Bothun*  
September 27

\* \* \* \* \*

## Memorials

A generous gift of money was received from Arlene Leese in memory of her husband, Ed, who passed away on July 6.

A generous gift of money was given by Donna Benson and family in memory of Ron Benson. This was for the 100 year celebration of UP Church.

Their thoughtfulness is appreciated very much.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Congratulations!

Dennis Maki was inducted into the Denfeld Hall of Fame on September 25. Following is write-up from Denfeld Alumni Association brochure:

“Dennis Maki was born and raised in Duluth and a 1962 graduate of Denfeld High School. In 1966, Dennis graduated from UMD with a B.A. in Accounting and worked as a CPA. He served in the Minnesota Army National Guard during the Vietnam War. Dennis is a member of the VFW and the American Legion. He was an Eagle Scout.

“I spent my entire business career at Herff Jones, a scholastic products manufacture. Products included class rings, yearbooks, diplomas, graduation announcements, caps and gowns, school photography, maps and globes. I served as an officer and a member of the Board of Directors.’

“I sponsor the Dennis L. Maki Scholarship Program for graduates of Denfeld High School who attend UMD in any discipline. Each year a male and a female is selected based on financial need and a \$6000 scholarship is awarded which can be renewed for three more years with the only stipulation being that the scholars continue to demonstrate financial need and maintain a 2.5 GPA. Since the inception in 2002-2003, **over 90 scholarships** amounting to about **\$500,000** have been awarded. Every year I get a chance to meet my scholars and their parents at a luncheon hosted by UMD.’

“I have recently started a scholarship for MBA students at UMD. I am a member of the Labovitz School of Business and Economics at UMD Dean’s Advisory Council and have been a “Professor for a Day” at some classes at LSBE over the past several years. I have given presentations and made donations to various UMD organizations, such as “The Women in Business Club.”

“Mr. Maki retired in 1995 and currently resides with his wife in West Palm Beach, Florida. His wife (Lois Uden) is also from Duluth and a 1964 Denfeld grad. They also have a home in Duluth which they visit on occasion.

“I enjoy traveling the world, playing golf, doing online stock trading, singing Karaoke, listening to audio books, and reading e-books, and numerous business/financial publications. Even though I have been retired for 22 years now, I still set goals in my personal life as I did when I was a business executive. One of my retirement goals was to learn to play the electric guitar.”

\* \* \* \* \*

*“To my friends at United Protestant Church and Pastor Mitch,*

*Thank you so very much for the warm welcome home and the great celebration of your 100th birthday.*

*The family story holds that my Grandfather Robert James Fairley was one of the laborers who helped build the church. My father was 5 and my aunt 7 at the time. Mom and dad always remained connected with the church. My brother and sister, now deceased, were all confirmed there. My mother (was) church secretary through Rev. Kapoo and Rev. G. Truit High. I taught Sunday School there under Rev. Bennett until I moved to Minneapolis to start my career in Engineering. I have always held our church in high esteem and has been my gold standard for what church should be. It was an emotional reunion for me to come home to worship but a happy one. Please if you could mail me the monthly newsletter and annual report so that I can remain connected.*

*Again my greetings to the church leadership and pastor Mitch, hope we can remain connected.”*

Love,  
James R. Fairley, Jr.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Fall Bazaar & Bake Sale**

**Saturday, November 6, 9am-3pm**




**Set up on Friday, November 5**

UP church will host a table for selling crafts. All proceeds from items sold will go to the church! If you have any crafts you can donate to the table, please contact Marna. And watch for updates in the weekly church emails. Thank you to Krissy Stanny for heading up the sale.



# UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

## October 2021

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat  |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|
|   |  |  |  |   | <b>1</b><br>Office 10-2   | <b>2</b><br>Choir Practice<br>10 am                                  |
| <b>3</b><br>Worship 10:30<br>Communion<br>Fuel Fund<br>Food Shelf                                   | <b>4</b><br>Office 11-3<br>Pastor 11-3     | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>Office 12-3<br>Pastor 2-5<br>Sisters/Faith<br>1:30 pm<br>Bible Study<br>6 pm | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>Office 10-2   | <b>9</b><br>Choir Practice<br>10 am                                  |
| <b>10</b><br>Worship 10:30  | <b>11</b><br>Office 11-3<br>Pastor 11-3    | <b>12</b><br>Council<br>7:00 pm<br>Trustees &<br>Diaconate<br>6:00                | <b>13</b><br>Office 12-3<br>Pastor 2-5<br>Faith Forma-<br>tion 6 pm                      | <b>14</b>   | <b>15</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>16</b><br>Choir Practice<br>10 am                                 |
| <b>17</b><br>Worship 10:30<br>Fuel Fund   | <b>18</b><br>Office 11-3<br>Pastor 11-3    | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b><br>Office 12-3<br>Pastor 2-5<br>Bible Study<br>6 pm                            | <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>23</b><br>Choir Practice<br>10 am<br>Ruby's<br>Pantry<br>10:30 am |
| <b>24</b><br>Worship 10:30  | <b>25</b><br>Office 11-3<br>Pastor 11-3    | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b><br>Office 12-3<br>Pastor 2-5<br>Faith Forma-<br>tion 6 pm                      | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b><br>Office 10-2<br> | <b>30</b><br>Choir Practice<br>10 am                                 |
| <b>31</b><br>Worship 10:30<br>All Saints Day<br>Halloween<br>Trunk or Treat<br>3-5 pm               | <b>Nov 1</b><br>Office 11-3<br>Pastor 11-3 | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>Office 12-3<br>Pastor 2-5<br>Sisters/Faith<br>1:30 pm<br>Bible Study<br>6 pm | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br>Office 10-2<br>Set up for<br>Fall Bazaar  | <b>6</b><br>Choir Practice<br>10 am<br>Fall<br>Bazaar<br>9am-3pm     |
| <b>7</b><br>Worship 10:30<br>Communion<br>Fuel Fund<br>Food Shelf<br>Daylight Sav-<br>ing ends 2 am | <b>8</b><br>Office 11-3<br>Pastor 11-3     | <b>9</b><br>Council<br>7:00 pm<br>Trustees &<br>Diaconate<br>6:00                 | <b>10</b><br>Office 12-3<br>Pastor 2-5<br>Faith Forma-<br>tion 6 pm                      | <b>11</b><br>Veterans<br>Day<br> | <b>12</b><br>Office 10-2  | <b>13</b><br>Choir Practice<br>10 am                                 |

# MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

## Coming Up in October

- October 2 \*Fall Bazaar, United Methodist Church, 436 N. 79th Ave. W., 9 am-1 pm
- October 3 \*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- October 6 \*Sisters of Faith meeting, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- October 12 \*Council meets 7:00 pm; Trustees & Diaconate 6:00
- October 17 \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- October 23 \*Ruby's Pantry, Mission Creek Church, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
- October 31 \*All Saints Day observance  
\*Halloween "Trunk or Treat", 3:00-5:00 pm

## Looking Ahead to November

- November 3 \*Sisters of Faith meeting, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- November 5 \*Set up for Fall Bazaar
- November 6 \*Fall Bazaar & Bake Sale, 9am-3pm
- November 7 \*Daylight Saving Time ends 2:00 am  
\*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- November 9 \*Council meets 7:00 pm; Trustees & Diaconate 6:00
- November 11 \*Veterans Day
- November 21 \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- November 27 \*Ruby's Pantry, Mission Creek Church, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

The 100th Anniversary Celebration on September 12 went well, and the weather cooperated. Several visitors attended worship service, and around 100 people attended afternoon festivities. They enjoyed touring the Sanctuary, reminiscing, visiting, and singing along & dancing to Todd Eckart's music. It was a pleasure to see former pastors Ernie Strandberg & Peter Bagley, as well as Charlotte Frantz & Terese Tomanek who have done pulpit supply for us. There are numerous people to thank for helping make this a great event.....the musicians and choir, the planning committee, cookie bakers, kitchen & food workers, arranged for donations, put together a history display of photos and documents, led tours in the Sanctuary, cleaned the church and weeded & cleaned the church yard, and much more!

#####

Pastor Mitch plans to have office hours Mondays (11 am-3 pm) and Wednesdays (2-5 pm). He plans to do visitations on Thursdays, and is setting aside Tuesdays and Fridays for his class studies. You may feel free to call him at any time of the week.



## October Birthdays

- |                   |                    |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Julie Lowe      | 2 Michael Nickila  | 6 Dennis Mortorelli |
| 6 Robin Motley    | 7 Beth Bagley      | 7 Jon Blevins       |
| 7 Marlene Blevins | 10 Marna Fasteland | 13 Donna Williamson |
| 16 Sarah Rogalla  | 19 Corey Francisco | 24 Devan Browley    |
| 26 Jacob Merila   | 28 Courtney Moran  | 30 Jim Lowe Sr.     |
| 31 Mark Erickson  | 31 Eric Merila     |                     |

## October Anniversaries

- |                        |                       |                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Wendi & Dave Huberty | 19 Cari & Jack Elliot | 25 Jane & Mike Rapaich |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|

## **United Protestant Church UCC**

830 88th Avenue W.  
Duluth, MN 55808  
unitedprotestantchurch.org



### **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.*

*October 2021*

*100 Years  
1917 - 2017*

*The earth has yielded its harvest,*

*God, our God, blesses us.*

*Psalm 67:7*

