



# **Tower Notes**

## **May 2023**

**United Protestant Church  
(UCC)**

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

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

### **Pastor**

Rev. Mitchell Nelson  
612-845-3839

Office Hours: Tue (1-4:30) & Wed (2-5)  
[pastor@unitedprotestantchurch.org](mailto:pastor@unitedprotestantchurch.org)

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

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>May 7</b>  | <b>Worship Service 10:30 am</b><br><b>Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf</b><br><b>Sunday School 10:30 am</b> |
| <b>May 14</b> | <b>Worship Service 10:30 am</b><br><b>Sunday School 10:30 am</b><br><b>Mother's Day</b>                     |
| <b>May 21</b> | <b>Worship Service 10:30 am</b><br><b>Sunday School 10:30 am</b><br><b>Second Offering - Fuel Fund</b>      |
| <b>May 28</b> | <b>Worship Service, 10:30 am</b><br><b>Sunday School 10:30 am</b>   |



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

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

Hi, Everyone,

Hope you are well and made it through this long winter!

I was honored to officiate a Celebration of Life for Debbie Isabell Nelson this last Sunday. It was a nice service and her presence shined throughout. Debbie's family has made a generous offering towards our handicap access chair lift, which is in the process of getting approval with the state, of over \$7,000 in memorials. Once everything is approved we will have a memorial plaque made to honor Debbie's memory by the chair lift. Many thanks to her family and friends that have given to this memorial.

I am in a couple week break right now between course work for my doctorate studies. My last paper that I had written on "The Cosmology of Surfing" got a 24 out of 25 points, and I am going to teach a class on this subject at the next Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting this June. My class for this summer, which will be Thursday afternoons starting May 18, is on writing sacred texts where we will have the intention of writing a whole book by the end of the class.

I am looking forward to all the events getting planned for this summer! Hope to see you at some of them!

Take care,  
Pastor Mitch



## **FROM THE MODERATOR**

Happy May!

I remember as kids we would make May Day baskets and put them on someone's door step, ring the door bell, and run so they would not know who did it. That got me to thinking about other things that are celebrated in May, so I did some research and found some interesting things! First of all, May is Mental Health Awareness Month so thank you, Pastor Mitch, for planning a couple of Faith Formations around counseling and mental health. The next day that jumped out at me is May 4, the National Day of Prayer - let's all say a special prayer on that day. I don't know what May 5, National No Pants Day, means, but I hope everyone will at least wear shorts or a skirt! And get ready to laugh on May 7, World Laughter Day! We all know about Mother's Day on May 14, but did you know that May 15 is National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day? YUM! And you could have some fun with May 16, which is National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day. May 18 is Ascension Day - we'll ask Pastor Mitch to explain that one to us. One that we really like at our house is May 20, National Rescue Dog Day (we love our Golden Retrievers). We can all celebrate on May 22 because that is National Being You Day! And we could say prayers for National Missing Children on May 25. May 29 is Memorial Day when we remember special folks from our past and get ready to share your smile with the world on May 31 - National Smile Day!

In and amongst all these fun and serious days ahead we will be talking about what are the things we need to work on here at UP Church. I hope everyone will enjoy this conversation!

Blessings,  
Marna

## AROUND UPC

### Remember in Prayer: Joys & Concerns

\*Remember the Fastland family on the passing of George.

\*Remember the family of Debbie Isabell Nelson who passed away on April 14.

Remember the following members, family and friends who are dealing with health issues: Julie, Terry, and Julie's son Ben; Shirley Letica; Linda Rominger; Ernie Strandberg; Harv Paskett; the Verhel family; Heather & son Jayden; Jennifer's sister Pamela; Jeremy Loucks; Bill Ion's brother-in-law Rex; Dennis Young; Nancy Carey Waters,

\*Other members, family and friends who are coping with health & other challenges, those who grieve, those unable to be with us.

\*Pray for safety of police officers & first responders who serve to keep the community safe and well.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

### Thank You

\*Thank you to all who helped with the Good Friday Ecumenical service.

\*To Marna & Mike Fastland for getting the Easter lilies to decorate the memorial cross for Easter, and Kathy Lee for coordinating palm branches for Palm Sunday.

\*Thanks to the men who prepared and served Easter breakfast: Kevin, Mike, Brian, Scott, Russ & Dick.

\*Special thanks to the young people who helped on Easter Sunday: James joined in clean-up after the breakfast and Kayden helped with ushering.

\*Thank you to all who baked bars & cookies and helped with the memorial service for Debbie Isabell Nelson on April 30.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Church Council Meeting Tuesday, May 9

Council meeting will be May 9 with Diaconate and Trustees meeting at 6:00 pm and full council meeting at 7:00. We will be finalizing plans for the Spaghetti Dinner on May 21, talking about summer concerts, discussing the rummage sale on June 15-17, and looking at prioritizing our work in the future.

\* \* \* \* \*

*This is the day which the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

Psalm 118:24

### Remember to Sign-Up to Assist with Sunday Worship!

Thank you to all who have signed up to help with greeting, ushering or reading during worship! The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex waiting to be filled in! If you are not sure what to do, there are a couple of brief paragraphs that explain the tasks on the sign-up sheet. You can also visit with any of the church council members if you have any questions. Thank you again for helping out during worship on Sunday mornings!

\* \* \* \* \*

### Food Donations for CHUM

Thank you everyone for your food donations to the CHUM grocery cart in April. Hope you can continue to share food with those less fortunate.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Sunday School through June 4

Sunday School will be taking a pause after gathering on June 4 for an end-of-the-year celebration. We have had awesome kids this year and fun sessions with our teachers, Mr. Berg and Ms. Collette. We will celebrate with cupcakes during the coffee hour. Plan for Sunday School to resume in September and have a great summer!! Watch for some special summer happenings in the Friday E-news and monthly newsletters.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OLIVE GARDEN SPAGHETTI DINNER SUNDAY, MAY 21 12:00 - 2:00 PM

**\*\*Curbside Pickup Only\*\***

Tickets go on sale April 30

Tickets can be purchased via:

United Protestant Church

(during office hours & church service:  
call church at 218-626-2570)

**OR**

Church Members

**OR**

Call 218-626-1571 to arrange purchase  
(dinners are limited)

**\$13 per dinner;**

includes spaghetti & meatballs,  
salad, breadstick  
and a dessert

United Protestant Church  
830 88th Avenue W.  
(Morgan Park)  
office@unitedprotestantchurch.org



## The “Continual Wishlist”

If you have any of these items that are fairly new or gently used and would like to donate them to the church, please call Marna (218-343-5287).

- ◇ ◇ A standard size refrigerator with Energy Star designation (not over 10 years old)
- ◇ ◇ 4 ft & 6 ft folding tables (can be wood or plastic)
- ◇ ◇ Wooden desk, approximately 24” deep by 48 to 60 inches long
- ◇ ◇ Bookcases/shelving units: can be wood or plastic (up to 60 inches tall by 24-30 inches wide by 10-12 inches deep)
- ◇ ◇ Cabinet with doors (up to 60 inches tall by 24-30 inches wide by 10-12 inches deep)

\* \* \* \* \*

## Prayers and Inspiration

Do you have a prayer you like or a paragraph or a poem that brings you inspiration? Please feel free to share that prayer or poem here in the church newsletter. Maybe your prayer will speak to others as they encounter difficult times or joyful celebrations.

### Spring Prayer

*Dear God:*

*Spring is a metaphor for change. Some changes we eagerly await, and some we abhor. Some changes we plan and others arrive uninvited. To all these changes we ask the gift of Your perspective beckoning us to expectation, hope, and rebirth.*

*May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too.*

*Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name.*

*Amen*

Rev. Mark Bekkedahl

Found on: <https://www.chausa.org/prayers/prayer-library/general-prayers-and-prayer-services/seasonal-and-holidays/spring-prayer>

## Spring Yard & Bake Sale

United Protestant Church will hold their Spring Yard Sale June 15-17 (times to be determined). We are currently taking donations of gently used and good condition items to sell. We can take smaller furniture, lamps and small appliances. Please - no unusable or poor condition items, large furniture, or computers (no printers, keyboards, speakers). Sale items will not be priced; we will ask people to pay what they can. Bake sale items should be priced. Watch for more details coming soon. Contact Kathy at 218-390-2113 with questions or if assistance needed to transport donations.

### Got Boxes?

If you have any empty, large boxes laying around, please bring them to church to be used for packing up rummage sale left-overs. Hopefully we will sell 95% of our rummage sale items, but if we don't, we will need some extra boxes to clean up the social hall.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Volunteer Opportunities AEOA

Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers needed in Morgan Park / Gary New Duluth.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays

Meals are picked up at the Central Kitchen around 10:00 am and the route takes 1 - 1 1/2 hours.

Consider volunteering for this very important and rewarding service delivering meals to homebound seniors and those with disabilities.

For more information call Kirsten at 218-409-5991

## Grandma's Marathon Saturday, June 17, 2023

The race is sold out and 20,000 runners are expected in Duluth in June. Grandma's is one of the largest races in the United States!

Some places with biggest need are:

- Water and aid station
- Bus Loading & Gear Bag Dropoff
- Gear Bag Pickup
- Finish Line

All volunteers receive a t-shirt, pair of socks, 2 drink tickets to post-race celebration at Bayfront Festival Park on Saturday, and an invitation to a volunteer appreciation party on June 22 at the Duluth Huskies game. Contact Alivia Nelson, Program Director, [alivia@grandmasmarathon.com](mailto:alivia@grandmasmarathon.com), or 218-727-0947, or 218-464-8411 for more information.

## ***Easter Memorials 2023***

- †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 Memory of June & Alfred Bothun from Brenda Peterson and family  
†In Memory of Tessie Schneider from Linda Bray  
†In Memory of June & Richard Conito, Richard Larson and Richard Bloomer from the Conito family  
†In Memory of Bill Dale from Cathy Dale  
†In Memory of mother and stepdaughter Sandy from Cathy Dale  
†In Memory of Bob Davey, Victoria Johnson Peterson, Paul Johnson and J. Albert Peterson from Isabel Davey and family  
†In Memory of parents, sister, and friends from Clarice Erickson  
†In Memory of Larry & Lu Butler, Ole & Dolly Fasteland, family and friends from Mike, Marna, Lydia and Elle  
†In Memory of Don & Lois Graves from Julie Graves  
†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  
†Happy Easter to all from Gayle Jazdzewski
- †In Memory of Joyce, Paul Johnson, Victoria Peterson, and Mr. & Mrs. G.L. Meyer from the Chester Johnson family  
†In Memory of Chris and Delores Lee from Kathy Lee  
†In Memory of Denny Grover from Kathy Lee  
†In Memory of Evelyn Frear from Shirley Letica and family  
†In Memory of Edwin & Mable Linde, Douglas & Alice Merrill and Wayne Merrill from Dick and Sue Linde  
†In Memory of Allen & Margaret Lusk, parents, Susan & Dennis Galvin, sister and brother-in-law, from Shari and Dennis Mortorelli  
†In Loving Memory of George Marich from Char and family  
†In Loving Memory of John Wayne Nickila Sr. from Claudia and family  
†In Loving Memory of my son Scott Lindvall and sister Diane Rendulich from Cheryl Paskett  
†In Memory of husband Bruce Robnik and son Paul Erickson from Karen Robnik  
†In Memory of Vern Rominger and Tom Erickson from Cari Elliot and Linda Rominger  
†In Memory of Robert Davey, Virginia Williamson, Victoria Peterson, George & Ella Williamson and Harry & Marie Silverthorn from the Dale Williamson family

*Thank you for Easter memorials  
honoring loved ones*

## **A Look Back in Time**


In 1995, there was one birth, 7 baptisms, 6 deaths, 5 weddings, and 4 new members recorded. Virginia Pych was called as pastor in September.

1996: June Bothun took over historian duties. Virginia Pych was installed as pastor in February. Wednesday night Lenten services were impressive with members of the church participating. Supper was served before each service. In April, around 120 people attended a Hawaiian Luau-themed family fun night. A congregational meeting was held in June to discuss and vote on forming a Foundation Endowment Fund for the church. Committee began planning a 75th anniversary celebration to be held in September. Plates commemorating the anniversary were sold. A 75th anniversary worship service was held on September 8

followed by an outdoor picnic on the church grounds. Sunday School started with about 35 children registered. October brought some changes, with resignation of organist and council chair. A congregational meeting was called on November 24 to discuss problems that had developed in the church. The meeting ended with many questions unanswered and not much settled. The children participated in a Christmas program on December 22, followed by refreshments and a visit from Santa. There were 2 weddings, 13 funerals, and 4 new members in 1996. Carol Mortensen resigned after many years of decorating the sanctuary and taking care of plants. Even though there were difficulties, many good things happened in 1996 and it was hoped things would work out to go forward in a positive manner.

# UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

## May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Office 11-3 Pastor 1-4:30	<b>3</b> Office 12-3 Sisters/Faith 1:30 pm Pastor 2-5 Meal & Faith Formation 5:30 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Office 10-2	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Office 11-3 Pastor 1-4:30 Council 7pm Trustees/ Diac 6 pm	<b>10</b> Office 12-3 Pastor 2-5 Faith Form 6 pm	<b>11</b> AICHO food distribution 1:30-3	<b>12</b> Office 10-2	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship 10:30 Mother's Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Office 11-3 Pastor 1-4:30	<b>17</b> Office 12-3 Pastor 2-5 Faith Form 6 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Office 10-2	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship 10:30 Fuel Fund Olive Garden Spaghetti Dinner	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Office 11-3 Pastor 1-4:30	<b>24</b> Office 12-3 Pastor 2-5 Faith Form 6 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Office 10-2	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship 10:30 Noisy Can collection	<b>29</b> Memorial Day 	<b>30</b> Office 11-3 Pastor 1-4:30	<b>31</b> Office 12-3 Pastor 2-5 Faith Form 6 pm	<b>June 1</b>	<b>2</b> Office 10-2	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Worship 10:30 Communion Fuel Fund Food Shelf	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Office 11-3 Pastor 1-4:30	<b>7</b> Office 12-3 Sisters of Faith 1:30 pm Pastor 2-5 Meal & Faith Formation 5:30 pm	<b>8</b> AICHO food distribution 1:30-3	<b>9</b> Office 10-2	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Worship 10:30	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Office 11-3 Pastor 1-4:30 Council 7 pm Trustees/ Diac 6 pm	<b>14</b> Office 12-3 Pastor 2-5 Faith Form 6 pm	<b>15</b> Rummage Sale	<b>16</b> Office 10-2 Rummage & Bake Sale	<b>17</b> Rummage & Bake Sale

# MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

## Coming Up in May

- May 3 \*Sisters of Faith, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall  
\*Faith Formation with potluck meal, 5:30 pm
- May 7 \*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- May 9 \*Council meeting - Trustees & Diaconate 6:00 pm, full Council 7:00 pm
- May 11 \*AICHO food distribution, 1:30-3, Morgan Park Community Center
- May 14 \*Mother's Day
- May 21 \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund  
\*Olive Garden Spaghetti Dinner - spaghetti with sauce & meatballs, breadstick, salad, dessert. Tickets are \$13, no children's tickets. Take-out only.
- May 28 \*Noisy Can Sunday
- May 29 \*Memorial Day

## Looking Ahead to June

- June 4 \*Communion, Fuel Fund, Food Shelf
- June 7 \*Sisters of Faith, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall  
\*Faith Formation with potluck meal, 5:30 pm
- June 8 \*AICHO food distribution, 1:30-3, Morgan Park Community Center
- June 13 \*Council Meeting: Trustees & Diaconate 6:00 pm, full Council 7:00 pm
- June 15-17 \*Spring Yard & Bake Sale
- June 18 \*Second Offering - Fuel Fund
- June 21 \*First Day of Summer
- June 25 \*Noisy Can Sunday

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**On-Line Giving:** Go to home page at [unitedprotestantchurch.org](http://unitedprotestantchurch.org) to access the Tithe.ly option for on-line giving. Thank you to all who have used this method to make offerings & donations.

**Bible Study:** Join Pastor Mitch for Faith Formation Study, Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

**The backdoor** is locked during worship service due to safety concerns. The door is open at about 9:30 am and clocked at 10:25 am. If it is past 10:30 and the door is locked please walk around to the front door. Thanks for your cooperation!

Pastor Mitch's office hours are Tuesday (1:00-4:30 pm) & Wednesday (2-5 pm); visitations on Thursday and class studies on Friday. You may feel free to call him at any time during the week.



## May Birthdays

- |    |                |    |                 |    |                   |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Kylie Davis    | 2  | Mitch Nelson    | 4  | Jerry Toman       |
| 8  | Hunter Laurila | 10 | Brian Parenteau | 11 | Isaac Fredrickson |
| 13 | Cathy Dale     | 15 | Heather Conito  | 25 | Ken Donald        |
| 26 | Jameson Conito | 27 | Nick Marich     | 28 | Jeff Nace         |

## May Anniversaries

- 16 Pam & Gerald Herrington    19 Kari & Jason Rengo

Learn more at [facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch](https://facebook.com/unitedprotestantchurch)

## United Protestant Church UCC

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



### **United Protestant Church Vision Statement**

*United Protestant Church is an over 100-year-old historical church that has been a church home to many folks that have worked in the US Steel mill and lived in the Morgan Park community. The Neo Gothic church is known for its beautiful Sanctuary that has natural acoustics making it a wonderful place to listen to church hymns and a venue for musical events. The congregation of UPC is non-judgmental, warm, joyful and welcoming. The future vision of UPC is to serve those in Morgan Park and the communities of western Duluth by continuing to create a place where the sacredness and reverence of God can be centered in the community by upholding the values of acceptance, peace, forgive-ness, compassion, love of neighbor, and respect for others.*

*May 2023*

*Incorporated 1917*

*Mothers hold their  
children's hands  
for a short while,  
but their hearts  
forever.*

*Author Unknown*

