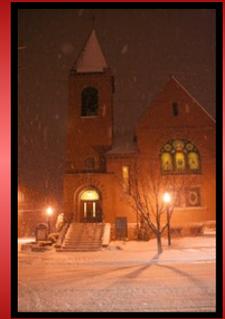




February
2018

Good News!

United Presbyterian Congregational Church
214 Vaughn Avenue, Ashland WI 54806
(715) 682-3093



From the Pastor.....

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”
Matthew 16:24-26

The part of life-together-in-faith that attracts and keeps me coming back is exactly this passage. We are on a journey that by losing ourselves we find ourselves. So much time in life and in the church is spent making our future secure. And, that is well and good—live within a budget, get exercise, and eat your veggies--but God is re-creating us in God’s own image. That means bending to the Great Artist’s hands. Even more so, faith in God means taking risks for God’s own purposes to unfold. Generally, I feel that means in who and how we love, what we do to reach out and make God’s love and event. The next chapter in our book, *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* speaks to us about mission and service.

Risk-Taking Mission & Service

Vibrant, fruitful, growing congregations practice risk-taking mission and service. The practice of risk-taking mission and service includes the projects, efforts, and the work people do to make a positive difference in the lives of others for the purposes of Christ, whether or not they will ever be part of the community of faith. This practice is one of the fundamental activities of church life that is so critical that failure to practice it in some form results in a deterioration of the church’s vitality and ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ. A church without generous and willing service by its members can never practice radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, or extravagant generosity since these depend upon the time, leadership, effort, prayers, and the sweat and tears of members and friends of the church. “Risk-taking” refers to the service we offer that stretches us out of our comfort zone and has us engaging people and offering ourselves to ministries that we would never have done if not for our desire to follow Christ. Risk-taking refers to the service risk-taking steps into great uncertainty, a higher possibility of discomfort,

resistance, or sacrifice. It pushes us beyond the circle of relationships that routinely define our church commitments. It changes the lives of the people who are served as well as the lives of those who serve. According to author Robert Schnase, churches that cultivate the practice of risk-taking service and mission:

- ◆ not only raise money to support overseas, international, and community work, they also organize teams, solicit and train volunteers, and send people to work directly in hands-on, face-to-face ministries.
- ◆ offer service/mission opportunities with gradations of involvement and differing levels of complexity appropriate to the talents, skills, and interests of a variety of people.
- ◆ not only offer their own projects and programs organized by their own members, but also collaborate with other churches, other denominations, civic organizations, social agencies and non-profit groups, weaving the church’s social concern into the networks of community service.
- ◆ actively invite and welcome newcomers, visitors, and the unchurched to help them in making a difference in the lives of others.
- ◆ have a responsibility to bear witness to wider social change by advocating for policies that improve the lives and conditions of those who struggle at the margins of society.

Questions to Ponder:

- ◆ What outreach ministries of UPCC push people out of their comfort zones to make a real difference in the lives of people?
- ◆ How has a mission initiative or outreach ministry changed our church? Shaped your own life?
- ◆ What is the most unexpected place to which your faith in Christ has taken you in order to make a difference in someone’s life?



Pastor Jim



February 7th and February 21st

From the Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is tasked with developing and administering the budget for our church. Your generous pledges and contributions to UPCC form the basis for all we do here at the church. We thought you might like to know how some of those dollars were put to work in 2017.

Our church has been a covenant partner with the BRICK since its founding in 2007. Here's what your gifts to the church did for the BRICK in 2017:

1. UPCC gave \$5000 as part of our mission giving.
2. Our Noisy-Coin donations totaled \$1,030.57. (That's a lot of coins!)
3. The Women's Association donated \$375 in 2017.

That adds up to a total of \$6,405.57 that our congregation gave to the BRICK in cash donations last year! In addition, the food donations we give on Noisy Coin Sundays added up 776 pounds of food. The BRICK values that food at \$1.33/pound, so the total value of that food came to \$1,032.09 in 2017. We also have people in our congregation who volunteer at the BRICK. Those volunteers donated 221³/₄ hours of service in 2017. The BRICK values their service at \$23.06/hour, so that added up to another \$5,113.56. Those numbers add up to a total of \$12,821.22 given by you in cash, food, and service to the Brick in 2017. What a wonderful gift from all of you!

So where does all that money go? The BRICK serves low-income residents who have an income of no greater than 185% of the federal poverty level at four locations in Ashland and Bayfield Counties (Ashland, Cable, Cornucopia, and Mellen).

Last year, 18,246 people were helped with direct food assistance; that's 1,521 people each month. The BRICK handed out a total of 471,145 pounds of food last year. Of that, 30% went to children and 17% went to people over the age of 60. But the BRICK also helps people through their Benevolence Program. This program helps people with financial difficulties. Through the Benevolence Program last year, 1,137 people were provided assistance. The program helps with rent, utilities, clothing, shelter, and travel assistance. The program also works with these clients to teach them money-management and budgeting skills. The BRICK provided \$75,197.91 in financial assistance in 2017, with 37% of that to help children, 5% to people over the age of 60, and 20% to households that were homeless.

So, your generous gifts and contributions have made a difference for people right here in our backyard. 1st John 3:17-18 says, "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." With your help, UPCC is making a difference with our actions. Thank you!

P.S. The BRICK is always looking for volunteers. If you'd like to help, you can call them at 715-682-7425.

The Stewardship Committee & Session



Take a look at the display in the basement of the church by the Vaughn Ave. entrance. Thank you to Cheryl Drevlow for your fantastic Valentine's Day work of art.



On February 17th the Presbytery of Northern Waters sponsored mission trip to Hammond, Louisiana will begin. Our volunteers will be dry-walling, working on flooring, painting, siding, gutting, and roofing. Volunteers will be staying at the First Presbyterian Church in Hammond and sleeping on high-quality air mattresses. A shower trailer and a fully equipped kitchen will be provided. The group returns on February 25th. Safe travels to the volunteers and prayers for a productive week of service!

From the Desk of Intergenerational Ministry

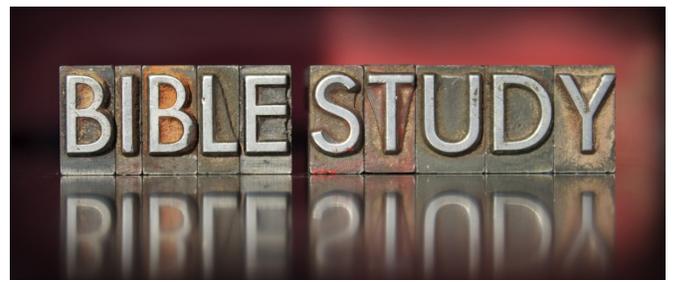
We are all so blessed as we look ahead to more wonderful ways to connect our lives with God our church family, our community, and our friends globally. February is a time for us to remember God's love for us even if we don't feel it in our hearts. As Christians, I think that if we open our eyes to the "why" of our experiences and trust that, in time, God's answers will reveal themselves, our hearts will soften, and God lessons for us become gifts to others.

This month we are taking time to go outside the walls of the church and share God's love with each other, our community, and our friends globally. We will be doing a craft and spending time with our friends in the nursing home on February 7th. The Sunday school class will also be walking over to Golden Living Center to sing and hand out Valentine's Day cards on February 11th.

Globally, we want to continue to sponsor Genesis and her family by sending her letters. I have also started working with Rebecca Suomie, who was here from Africa and told us about the educational needs of her students there. We are working on a way to connect our Sunday School Students with the students in Africa. We are very excited about this new venture.

Let February be your month to embrace God's loving lessons for you, so that you may one day be God's gift to someone else. God Bless you always.

-Jill Zifko
Intergenerational Ministry



*Bible Study with Ernie Bliss
Tuesday mornings at 11:00 am.
Discussion on the Book of Daniel
will continue.*



Fill the Box!

The large wicker box in the Narthex of the church is empty! Let's fill it on the Second Sunday of Each Month. This Month it is on February 11th... Please bring your non-perishable food items to worship. The children will help collect the items during the Children's Chat and bring the items to the front of the sanctuary to help fill the box. The items will be taken to The Brick for their Fill the Box each second Sunday with non-perishable food items and a Noisy collection of coins with everything going to The Brick. REMEMBER to bring..Your non-perishable food item (s) every 2nd Sunday to worship. These items go to The BRICK each month and are much appreciated.

February Calendar

NEWSLETTER: Current month: FEBRUARY: Standing meetings for out of facility groups: 1) Wednesdays Noon: AA group meets in lounge / 2) Wednesdays in Dining room from Noon to 2 pm: Ceramics Class for disabled adults /3) Sundays at 7:00 pm – NA group meet in lounge. 7:30 pm Gregorian Chant in Sanctuary

FEBRUARY ACTIVITY CALENDAR:

February 1st: 10-11:30 am piano practice in Sanctuary
5:30 pm Yoga in youth room

February 3rd: Jr High youth retreat – Meet @ church at 10 am
7:30 pm – Chamber Concert in Sanctuary

February 4th: 9:00 am SS / ABS
10:30 am – Worship with communion
7:30 pm Gregorian Chant in Sanctuary

February 5: 10-11:30 Piano practice
5:30 pm Yoga in youth room

February 6: 10 am Violin practice in Sanctuary
11 am Bible Study w/Ernie Bliss
4:15 pm STAFF meeting in Dining Room
5 pm – Facilities & Grounds Mtg
6:30 pm Consort practice in Chapel

February 7: 7:00 am – Men’s Bible Study in LL
1:30 pm Canasties in Dining Room
5-6:30 pm Jr Youth
5:30 pm Wednesday night dinner
6:15 pm Organist/Pianist practice
6:30-8:00 pm – Sr youth meet
7:00 pm – Choir

February 8: 8:30 am AAMA meeting in Dining Room
10 am piano practice in Sanctuary
1:30 pm GAME DAY @ Court Manor
5:30 pm Yoga in youth room

February 10: 9 am – Session Retreat in Dining Room

February 11: 9:00 am SS (kids visiting Nursing Home during class) / ABS
10:30 am Worship – Noisy Coins
CHOCOLATE Sunday follows worship today
7:30 pm Gregorian Chant in Sanctuary

February 12: 10 am TEAM Meeting
10 am Violin practice in Sanctuary
5-6:30 Consort practice in Chapel
5:30 pm Yoga in youth room

February 13: 11:00 am Bible Study w/Ernie Bliss
4:00 pm Stewardship mtg
5:00 pm SHROVE Tuesday Pancake supper
6:30 pm Strings Concert

February 14th: HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!
2:30 pm Grief Support Group In LL
6:30 pm Ash Wednesday worship service

February 15: 10 am piano practice in Sanctuary
5:30 pm Yoga in youth room

February 17: Mission trip to Hammond Louisiana leaves

February 18: 9:00 am SS / ABS
10:30 Worship – Special music: SS children sing
7:30 pm Gregorian chant in Sanctuary

February 19: 10-11:30 am piano practice
1 pm Mary Martha meet @ church
5:30 pm Yoga in Youth room
7:00 pm Deborah Circle @ Marian Penn’s

February 20th: 11 am Bible Study w/Ernie Bliss
6:30 pm Consort practice in Chapel

February 21st: 7 am – Men’s Bible Study in LL
1:30 pm Canasties in Dining Room
5:30 pm Wednesday night dinner
5-6:30 pm Jr Youth meet
6:15 pm Organist/Pianist practice
6:30-8:00 pm – Sr youth meet
7 pm – Choir

February 22: 10:00 am – piano practice in Sanctuary
5:30 pm Yoga in youth room

February 24th: 1-3 pm: Women’s Brunch in Dining Room

February 25: 9:00 am SS / ABS
10:30 am Worship
7:30 pm Gregorian Chant in Sanctuary

February 26: Mission team return
10-11:30 am piano practice
5:30 pm Yoga in youth room

February 27: 11 am Bible study w/Ernie Bliss
6:30 pm Consort practice in Sanctuary

February 28: 5-6:30 pm Jr Youth
5:30 pm – SESSION Mtg
6:15 pm Organist/pianist practice
6:30-8:00 pm Sr youth meet
7:00 pm Choir

IMPORTANT DATES!

February 7th - Early Release, Friendship time with our Friends at the Nursing Home

February 11th - During Sunday School we will be singing to our Friends at Golden Living and bringing them cards



February 24th - Women’s Brunch 1:00pm - 3:00pm in Dining Room. Peggy Hoffman will be our guest presenter: Chair Yoga. Door prizes donated by Kat Roman

Yoga

Mondays @ 5:30 pm with Peggy Hoffman
Thursdays @ 5:30 pm with Jocelyn Langholz. Cost: \$5.00 per session



FEBRUARY NEWS

Good News!

Happy Birthday

- 1 Anna Fridsma & Cindy Mrdjenovich
- 2 Eileen Van Pernis
- 4 David Aslyn
- 5 Aaron Swanson Jr. & Kathy Setzke
- 6 Marge Walworth, Diana Mann & Nick Lesneski
- 7 Jamie Nelson
- 8 Henry Norman Martinsen
- 10 Kristy Liphart
- 11 Christy Hammond
- 12 Pattie Sauer
- 13 Clyde Eilo
- 15 Shawn Traaholt
- 16 Nancy Brown, Mike Masterson & Dick Whitten
- 17 Robyn Mahnke & Sawyer Wickman
- 18 Barry Mahnke
- 19 Casen Evenson
- 21 Lois Lightner, Blake & Jesse Chingo
- 22 Scott Clark, Greg Brown, JoAnn Erickson & Kate Bernardo
- 23 Mike Urling, Kimberly Roguski, Lindsey Adams & Trista Richardson
- 24 Jack Hogleund & Pam Randall
- 26 Matt Brown & Briggs Brennan
- 27 Katie Swanson (nee Hopkins) & Sarah Yankee
- 29 Ethan Graff, Roxanna Turner & Mercedes Torres

Don't Miss Chocolate Sunday!



Sunday, Feb. 11th
during coffee hour.
Bring your favorite
chocolate delight to
share.



Worship Team

LAY READERS:

- 2/4: Anne Wickman
- 2/11 Linda Fish
- 2/18 Seth Johnson
- 2/25 Bea Hayen

USHERS:

- 2/4 Beilfuss family & Nancy Casperson
- 2/11 YOUTH
- 2/18 Tom & Connie Cogger
- 2/25 Karen Kay, Carol Eder & Pat & Sharon Hammond

CHILDREN's CHAT:

- 2/4 Sara Heisler
- 2/11 Pastor Jim
- 2/18 Julie Radke
- 2/25 Linda Fish

ACOLYTES:

- 2/4 Hope Swanson & Hannah Deters
- 2/11 Casen & Carter Evenson
- 2/18 Grace Swanson & Ahnali Zifko
- 2/25 Corrina & Bella Roman

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

- 2/4 Kim Bro & Becky Brown
- 2/11 CHOCOLATE SUNDAY
- 2/18 Kat & Pete Whitten
- 2/25 Eileen & Paul VanPernis

BAKERS:

- 2/4 Connie Cogger & Nancy Dufek
- 2/11 CHOCOLATE SUNDAY
- 2/18 Connie Cogger & Julia Waggoner
- 2/25 Julia Waggoner & RoAnn Ledin

SOUND SYSTEM

- 2/4 Ernie Bliss
- 2/11 Eli Schue
- 2/18 Chuck Gottschall
- 2/25 Brian Zifko

COUNTERS IN FEBRUARY: Toby Griggs & Anne Wickman

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Moving or new email address? Please give all information for your address or email change to the church office.

Information for the church newsletter. Please forward your information for the February issue of *Good News!* by Feb. 25th to the church office



Ben Cogger

Our Vision:
“To be a welcoming family of God that joyfully embraces the servant life in Christ.”

<http://www.presbych.weebly.com>

