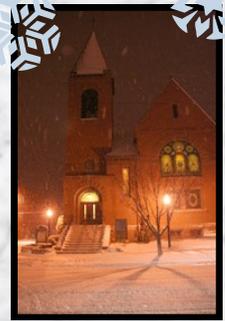


January
2018

Good News!

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



From the Pastor.....

I have been writing to you about the book *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase. Previously, I have discussed the concepts of “radical hospitality” and “passionate worship.” The next concept is “intentional faith development.” Let’s consider what that means.

Intentional Faith Development

Vibrant, fruitful, growing congregations practice intentional faith development. Christ’s gracious invitation through radical hospitality invites and welcomes us, and God’s transforming presence in passionate worship opens our hearts to Christ’s pardon, love and grace, creating in us a desire to follow. Growing in Christ requires more than weekly worship through, and it is through intentional faith development that God’s spirit works in us, perfecting us in the practice of love as we grow in the knowledge and love of God. Learning in community replicates the way Jesus deliberately taught his disciples. Jesus taught in community so that we would learn to discover his presence in others. The practice of learning in community gives disciples a network of support, encouragement and direction as we seek to grow in Christ. As we consciously appropriate the stories of faith with others, we discover that our questions, doubts, temptations and missteps are not unusual – but are part of the journey. Others help us interpret God’s Word for our lives. The fruit of the spirit that we see in Christ cannot be learned apart from a network of relationships. In the intimacy of small groups, we learn not only from writers and thinkers and people of the past through scripture and books, but we also learn from mentors and models and fellow travelers in our congregation. We give and receive the care of Christ by praying for one another, supporting each other through periods of grief and difficulty, and celebrating one another’s joys and hopes. The sanctifying grace of God bears the human face of our fellow disciples. Additionally, learning in community provides accountability for our faith journeys; by covenanting together, we stay stronger in our convictions and habits.

Story – “The Middle Doors”

The pastor and staff of a mid-sized congregation noticed that while the church received many new visitors and a high percentage of them were joining the church, nevertheless attendance remained

steady month after month. For several years, the church had seen growth in attendance, and they couldn’t figure out why it was leveling off now. The church practiced hospitality with excellence, with visitors and new members feeling welcomed at worship and into membership. But then, after a few months, visitors and new members would drift away, become less consistent in attendance, and fall away altogether. To understand the situation better, the pastor visited with some members who had joined in the last several months.

He discovered that people felt welcomed and supported when they first visited the church, and continued to feel a sense of belonging in worship. But when they tried to become part of Sunday School classes, men’s organizations, choirs, and Bible studies, the groups felt cliquish and uninterested in welcoming new people. Even after some months of trying, they felt at the margins in these small groups and ministries. One woman said, “Before I moved here, I was the kitchen chief in my old church for years. I didn’t expect to do that again here, but I hoped to join the cooking team. When I showed up to help with dinner, they handed me napkins and told me put them on the tables, and then I just stood around by myself the rest of the evening. I felt like they didn’t need me or want me.” The pastor and staff soon realized that the “front door” was working well as people felt welcomed and invited. But they were slipping out the “back door” because they were discovering that too many of the “middle doors” were closed tight. They began a series of teaching events and lessons in the adult classes, mission teams, service organizations, choirs, and Bible studies to try to move the culture of hospitality deeper into the life of the church. After some months, they noticed that the small groups began to grow, and with them, worship attendance began to trend up again. Most new members will not feel like they really belong to the church until they find meaningful connections in small groups beyond the worship experience.

Are our church’s “middle doors” open?

Intentional faith development uses the word “intentional” as it refers to deliberate effort, purposeful action toward an end, and high prioritization. It describes the practice that view the ministry of Christian education and formation, small group work, and Bible study as absolutely critical to their mission and that consistently offer opportunities for people of all ages, interests, and faith experiences to learn in community. The practices of the faith are too demanding without the support from

Continued on next page



JANUARY NEWS

Good News!

Continued from page 1

others.

Insights into Intentional Faith Development:

- People want fellowship and to learn about the faith, but they have trouble squeezing it into their lives; creative scheduling and planning can help!
- Disciple Bible Study changes peoples' lives. Bible study changes churches. When church leaders take their own spiritual growth seriously and immerse themselves in scriptural study, in prayer, and in fellowship, they understand the purpose of the church and the point of ministry differently.
- We could consider breaking out of usual patterns and expectations of place, frequency and curriculum to reach new people.
- We could consider practicing Intentional Faith Development by offering home groups, "brown bag" lunch Bible studies, and other mid-week faith studies at a variety of times –focusing on the schedules/interests of the people they seek to serve.
- We could update current methods of communication about faith development studies. We could start new groups based on visitors, new members and people not yet attending the Church.
- We could create classes/studies with special topics to attract the interest of unchurched people.

Question to ponder:

What kind of learning opportunity would you like to attend at UPCC if it were offered?

*Grace and peace,
Jim*



Bible Study with Ernie Bliss will resume on January 16th (Tuesday) at 11:00 a.m.



From the Stewardship Committee

Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you!

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

~Galatians 5:22-23

As we come to the conclusion of our 2018 "Taking the Next Step Campaign" to raise the funds necessary for the budget here at UPCC, those of us on the Stewardship Committee and the Session want to say THANK YOU! Your wonderful pledges of time, talents, and financial support help support all that we do here at UPCC. We couldn't do anything without the faithful gifts received from all of you. Together, we are the body of Christ. When we are giving, we are being the faithful people God calls us to be. Stewardship is not just raising money for a budget, it's God's way of raising disciples.

Your generous pledges will do so much more than just balance our budget for the coming year. These gifts will allow us not only to continue supporting our existing areas of ministry but develop new areas of ministry as well. Your generous gifts are making a real difference in the lives of people in this church and in our Chequamegon Bay community every day. We believe in a God who is generous. And we are created in God's image. So, we are called to be generous as God is generous, and your gifts affirm your belief in a generous God. Once again, we thank you for your generosity, support, encouragement and partnership in our ministry here at UPCC. It is greatly appreciated, never taken for granted and will help our church to move forward.

The Stewardship Committee & Session



JANUARY NEWS

Good News!



The Presbytery of Northern Waters is sponsoring a mission trip to Hammond, Louisiana – February 17-25, 2018. Volunteers are needed who are willing to dry-wall, lay flooring, paint, side, gut, and roof. Experience is helpful but it is not necessary, just a willingness to learn and help. You must be at least 18 years old, in good health, and have health insurance.

You will be staying at the First Presbyterian Church in Hammond, and sleeping on high-quality air mattresses. Shower trailer and a fully equipped kitchen will be provided. They can accommodate a maximum of 25 volunteers at one time, so please register soon! Carpooling to site and return to Ashland. Trip will take two days each way, staying over one night in a motel – both ways.

Total cost is approximately \$300 per person. There is a non-refundable deposit of \$100 per person, which should be included with your registration. Please submit your registration form and make check payable to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church: C/O Paul Rigstad, 2819 Parkwood Lane, Duluth, MN 55811

If you cannot participate but would like to provide financial support, you are welcome to send a check designated for the Louisiana Work Trip.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: December 30, 2017.

Questions? Call Rev. Richard Blood at 218-343-4850, Paul Rigstad @ 218-666-2646 or Jim Deters at 720-530-1073. There will be a meeting in mid-January for a pre-trip orientation session. (REGISTRATION FORMS IN CHURCH OFFICE or see Pastor Jim)

Women's Association News

The 2017 bazaar was a wonderful success. The Women's Association wants to thank everyone who helped in any way; it wouldn't have happened so well without you. The Tea Room, with all the delectable sandwiches and cookies, served about fifty. Pounds and pounds cookies were sold. The bake/candy tables were filled; the craft tables overflowed. The raffle ticket tumbler was nicely filled. While the "sales floor" was never crowded, the flow was steady and customers cheerful. The bazaar, along with the raffle, raised nearly \$3000! So, with praise to God and thanks to many, the Women's Association is able to continue to support its missions, and provide additional support to The BRICK and New Day Shelter.

The proceeds from the raffle were designated for local charities. More than 900 tickets were sold; after expenses (license, quilting costs), \$375 was sent to The BRICK and \$200 to the New Day Shelter. Our winners: Jamie Welch of Washburn won the quilt; Tom and Connie Cogger won the flight; and Anna

Fridsma won a gift certificate (a surprise addition to the raffle). Again, thank you to all who participated. And so the bazaar is wrapped up for another year! Well done, everyone.

Thank you!



Women's Thank Offering

We wanted to say thank you to the congregation for your generosity in giving \$368 for the Thank Offering, which will fund projects of the Presbyterian Women throughout the country. Thank you so much! Looking forward into the new year, There will be a pasty sale at the end of January, just in time for the Super Bowl. More information will be available, along with the requests for help with this project.

We wish everyone a blessed New Year.





JANUARY NEWS

Good News!

Christmas Play 2017

Wow! What an excellent performance put on by the children of our church. I am so blessed to have so many talented young children to work with. Thank you so much to all the children who participated. Their families were so supportive in bringing them to what, I sure, seemed like very long practices to them. We had so many helping hands, They were like Secret Santas to me. Thank you all so much for helping with the stage, costumes, snacks, and clean-up.

An extra special thank you to Ernie Bliss for working out all of our sound so you could all hear the sweet voices of our children. Another special thank you to Diana Mann for her talent in teaching our kids all the music and to Katherine Swanson as well for her work with the children on the bells.

Special thanks to Andrew and Sally MacGregor for taking seven students to the Planet Wisdom youth conference, an uplifting and spiritual experience for all who attended.

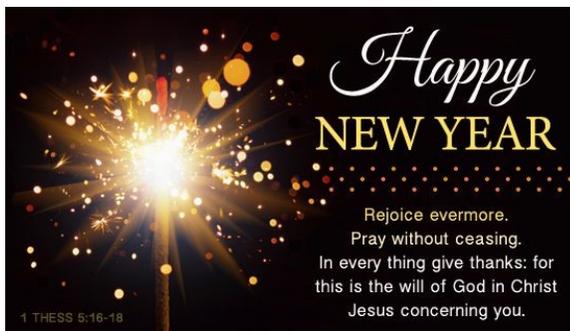
Dates to Remember

December 31st - There will be Sunday School. It is Bible-Buck Sunday. so I hope you all come. We are hoping to get families to come to World of Wheels and go roller-skating with us.

January 17th - This is an early release Wednesday. Come see what we have in store for the kids, 2:00pm - 4:00pm.

I am looking forward to the year ahead.
Happy New Year!

-Jill Zifko
Intergenerational Ministry
Jill Zifko, Inter-Generational Ministry Coordinator





Photos of the Season



HAPPY NEW YEAR

January Calendar

- January 2 5:00 pm – Facilities & Grounds meeting
January 3rd: 1:30 pm Canasties in dining room
5-6:30 pm junior high youth meet
6:30-8 pm senior high youth meet
- January 4 7 am – Men's Bible Study meet in LL
January 7th: 10:30 Worship with Communion
January 8 10 am – TEAM meeting
January 9 4:00 pm Stewardship meeting
January 10 5-6:30 pm junior high youth meet
5:30 pm Wednesday night dinner
6:30-8 pm senior high youth meet
- January 11 10 am Mom & tots in education wing
1:30 pm GAME day at Court Manor
- January 14 10:30 am Worship – Noisy Coin Sunday
January 15 Mary Martha meet
7:00 pm – Deborah Circle meet at Marian Penn's
- January 16 11 am: Bible study with Ernie Bliss
January 17 1:30 pm Canasties in dining room
5-6:30 pm junior high youth meet
5:30 pm SESSION
6:30-8 pm senior high youth meet
- January 18: 7 am – Men's Bible study meet in LL
10 am Mom & Tots meet in education wing
2 pm – hearing screenings (Miracle Ear)
- January 21 10:30 am Worship
January 23 11 am Bible Study with Ernie Bliss
January 24 5-6:30 pm junior high youth meet
5:30 pm Wednesday night dinner
6:30-8 pm senior high meet
- January 25: 10 am—Mom & tots in education wing
January 28 10:30 am Worship
11:30 am – Congregational Annual Meeting & potluck
January 29th: 4:15 pm String quartet



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 January 9th!

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.



January 10th & 24th –
5:30 pm in the dining room

thank you!

.....to everyone in the Sunday school, students, teachers, helpers, and Jill Zifko, Director, for a wonderful Christmas pageant this year!
.....to all the bell ringers on December 16th who took time to ring for the Salvation Army!
.....to Ernie Bliss for making our sound system work so flawlessly this month!
.....to Eileen & Paul VanPernis for our lovely Christmas tree this year and their help in transporting it to the church as well as decorating the sanctuary along with Julie Radke
.....to Bob & Cheryl Drevlow for decorating the lower level entrance way for the holidays.
.....to Myra Bliss for directing the beautiful chime choir this season.
.....to Nancy Dufek, Marian Penn and Diana Mann for their contributing their talents to the wonderful music this Christmas.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Year-to-date expenses: \$175,891; year-to-date revenues: \$158,934. We have an operating fund balance of \$18,384, which is the result of a carry-over from last year's budget and increased giving, so the current deficit is only \$1,573. Thank you to all of you for your generous support of our church!



JANUARY NEWS

Good News!

January Birthdays

- 1 T.J. Yankee
- 2 Chris Erickson
- 4 Alisa Kolwitz
- 6 Dennis Johnson & Dennis Gilbertson
- 7 Peter Bremner, Brian Minor, Travis Duggar & Ross Fuhrman
- 8 Atticus Roman
- 9 Allison Radke & John McFaul
- 10 Erick Tidstrom, Eric Minor & Lauren Bratley & Russ Fish
- 11 Charlie Evenson, Chris Graff, Jessica Richardson, Pam Griggs, & Peggy Hoffman
- 13 Ben Sheils & Zoe Jacobs
- 17 Katelyn Dufek
- 18 David Brunsvold
- 19 Fred Tidstrom, Jenny Luppes, & Marissa Fish
- 20 Andy Bremner
- 21 John Urling
- 22 Randi Sue Hanson
- 24 Candy Pagliano
- 25 Nancy Bissell & Jenny Krueger
- 26 Dorothy Whiting & Peter MacGregor
- 27 Jennifer McPeak
- 28 Carol Eder
- 29 Dick Joyal
- 30 Ida Johnson, Jacob Liphart, Josh Griggs & Lucy Habas
- 31 Jim Fridsma & Kim Fridsma



ANNUAL MEETING
 Will be Sunday January 28th
 following the worship service
 with a potluck meal.

Worship Teams

LAY READERS:

- 1/7 Victoria York
- 1/14 Julia Waggoner
- 1/21 Vernelle Mercer
- 1/28 Pete Mann



USHERS:

- 1/7 Mahnke Family
- 1/14 Mahnke Family
- 1/21 Mahnke Family
- 1/28 Mahnke Family



CHILDREN'S CHAT:

- 1/7 Jill Zifko
- 1/14 James Deters
- 1/21 Sue Hopkins
- 1/28 Diana Mann



ACOLYTES:

- 1/7 Mollie McKuen & Trista Richardson
- 1/14 Grace Swanson & Ahnali Zifko
- 1/21 Malia Anderson & Morgan Anderson
- 1/28 Casen Evenson & Carter Evenson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

- 1/7 John & Sheila Urling
- 1/14 Julie Whiting & Alice Evenson
- 1/21 Tom & Connie Cogger
- 1/28 Annual meeting and potluck

BAKERS:

- 1/7: Linda Fish & Katherine Swanson
- 1/14 Joanne Weister & Diana Mann
- 1/21 Sheila Urling & Becky Deters
- 1/28 Annual Meeting and potluck

SOUND SYSTEM

- 1/7 Brian Zifko
- 1/14 Pete Whitten
- 1/21 Chuck Gottschall
- 1/28 Ernie Bliss



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Good News!
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Contact Information

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KATHERINE SWANSON UPCC.Treasurer@gmail.com
JILL ZIFKO jillzifko.igmupcc@gmail.com

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!* to Kate in the office by Jan. 25th.



Ben Cogger

Our Vision:

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

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

