

United  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of Peoria, Illinois

# The Chimes

A publication of United Presbyterian Church  
Peoria, IL



Volume.13 Issue.3 March 30, 2016

Join UPC in reading and discussing

## The Good and Beautiful COMMUNITY

james bryan smith

April-May 2016

sign ups for book orders and discussion groups  
are on the Welcome Center bulletin board

### Meet Your Deacon Potluck April 17th 11:30am in Fellowship Hall

Main dish, beverage and table service will be provided. Main dish will be turkey. Please bring a dish or two to share.

This is a wonderful time to meet your Deacon  
and other parish members

Served by Stewardship, Human Resources and the Preschool Committees

Please RSVP by signing up at the Information Center or  
calling the church office at 693-2002 by April 11th.

**In this issue:****Page 2**

Those in Uniform  
Website  
Prayer List

**Page 3**

Message from Pastor Stephen

**Page 4**

Results of the Survey

**Page 5**

Message from Pastor Patricia

**Page 6**

Worship & the Arts

**Page 7**

Worship & the Arts Cont'd  
News and Notes

**Page 8**

Connecting Point  
News and Notes

**Page 9**

Health & Wellness  
Prayer Circle  
Quest

**Page 10**

Youth Christian Education  
Christian Education  
News and Notes

**Page 11**

Mission

**Insert**

Stewardship & Finance  
Church Life  
News and Notes  
Calendar



Eunice Andrews

Jack Bensing

Dorothy Bloom

Bryce Brand

Leonard Brown

Lorraine Bunker

Dan Dickerson

Bob & Carolyn Gnepper

Margaret Greiner

Pam Harrison

Midge Hillard

Margaret Hochstrasser

Loretta Horst

Mary Johnson

Dwight & Corda Jones

Mike Kelley

Ken Krancher

Maureen Leuba

Ray Long

Sandie Martin

Bob McDowell

Ethel Moore

Diane Morrill

Henry Noetzel

Nathan Pennington

Randy Saxon

Don Serup

Sherry Shedenhelm

Steve Stella

Deb Sullivan

Jude Thom



Sgt Scranton, Joseph  
B-CO 1-63 AR  
Camp Beuhring, Kuwait  
APO, AE 09330

Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower the church.



Interested in joining United Presbyterian Church?  
Contact a pastor or visit our website at: [www.unitedpc.org](http://www.unitedpc.org).

### Uniting in Vision Recap

We had a terrific afternoon on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> as many members of UPC gathered to unite in Vision together. We began by naming all the changes that have taken place in the life of the church over the past five to seven years. We generated a big list with everything from worship and programmatic changes, to changes in staff and membership.

We then identified some positive changes and some of the changes that were more challenging. The group felt the most positive changes for the church were the new preschool, one blended-style worship service, staffing changes, and the increased younger families at church. The group also named the more challenging changes, which included changes in church demographics, budget constraints, and the transition to adding more contemporary elements to worship. The move to one service that has traditional and contemporary elements is overall seen as a big positive, but it has, nonetheless, been a challenging change for many people.

We then discussed things that would make the church a very different place if they went away or no longer existed. Members named the Sunday morning cookies, individual staff members, Small Groups, our open and welcoming community, children in worship, Connecting Point, Preschool, Educational classes, and our building and grounds.

We also named the unique gifts and assets that UPC has for doing ministry like a Parish Nurse, our large building and expansive grounds, our larger staff, our culture of welcoming, and openness to diversity, questions, and change.

Lastly, we named some of our dreams for UPC. Some of the dreams are that we pay off our church mortgage, expand the preschool to other grade levels, start live-streaming services, expand the Snack Pack Program, grow the choir, and develop the property and grounds more so that it is used by the community more often. Another big dream was that our church become more racially diverse.

We have some big dreams for UPC which is great. I hope we can continue these great conversations. One way you can participate in the conversation is by filling out three postcards that can be found at the Welcome Center and then returning them to the church. The three postcards give you the chance to fill in the blank for "What I love about UPC is..." "UPC Has Made A Difference In My Life Because..." and "My Hopes and Dreams For UPC Are..."

We'll display all your answers so we can all learn and see the ways UPC is loved, the difference UPC makes in our lives, and the hopes and dreams we have for our faith community together.

Thank you for being a part of this community that grows and nurtures followers of Christ in a welcoming community.

In common calling,  
Pastor Stephen

### Results of the Uniting in Vision Survey

The first part of the survey that was given out in last month's Chimes focused on how you, the congregation, perceived the identity of United Presbyterian Church.

Based on the surveys, the congregation believes the church is more influenced by contemporary ideas and trends than by history and tradition. There is also a clear sense that there is a place and role for the history and tradition of the church, but the church isn't held hostage to the past.

There is more of a split about whether our church is focused on serving our members or serving the world. A church needs to serve its members, but be a place that can and does serve the world. One of the best ways a church serves its members is by equipping them to serve others. The Bible describes the church as the body of Christ sent to be a giving and serving community for the sake of the world, not for itself. With that said, the church has to strengthen, support, and empower its members to be the Body of Christ in the world.

There is also a healthy mix of opinions about whether the church's approach to social issues is basically education, leaving any action to individual conscience, or if the church as a whole should act together to take a stand on social issues as a congregation. The majority of respondents, however, believe that the church needs to occasionally take a stand together on issues and work and act for justice. This has to be done in such a way as to allow for differences of opinions and different ways of working for justice. The church needs to provide education and allow individuals to make up their own mind, too.

The congregation strongly believes the our church feels like one big family, is very involved with the community, and that the UPC's approach to individual salvation emphasizes education, nurture, and gradual growth rather than stressing a moment of conversion and born-again experience. It is also clear the congregation does not believe we have too strong a focus on our denominational identity and heritage. The general consensus is that we do not make our denominational affiliation a focus of who we are, but we also do not ignore it completely.

The second part of the survey focused on worship and programmatic preferences.

The majority of respondents believe the congregation prefers traditional hymns in worship, yet the majority of respondents personally prefer a mix of musical styles. That means there's a sense that there is a strong preference that does not actually exist. There are some who prefer traditional hymns, and some who prefer more modern hymns or other forms of contemporary worship, but overall the congregation seems to enjoy, and prefer, a healthy mix.

The survey also suggests the congregation likes traditional sermons that have a scripture and then an explanation, but also likes when sermons sometimes utilize multimedia, music, drama, or more conversational elements. A strong majority of respondents also prefer there to be some congregational leadership of worship so the pastors aren't leading every part of the worship service.

The congregation also enjoys a mix of intergenerational fellowship opportunities ones geared to specific age groups and demographics. For education, survey respondents prefer both classroom lecture style opportunities and small group discussion classes. The congregation sees the value of hands-on missions and wants to do more hands-on mission while also continuing our commitment to give to local mission projects.

Thank you to everyone who filled out a survey. It helps the leadership of the church better understand who we are as a church, and who we want to be.

### What Shall We Plan for?

Planning. Advanced planning pays dividends. So we plan our evening meals, we plan our home improvement projects, we plan special occasion gatherings for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, birthdays and anniversaries. We plan our vacations. We plan our work days and our weekends. We plan for our children's education and a wide array of extra-curricular activities for them. And if we are fortunate, we plan how to spend our tax refund. Planning pays dividends.

It also is beneficial to plan for emergencies: Like a savings account for when the wash machine or the refrigerator breaks down or the car needs repair. And, ever since the tornado in Washington, many of us have a severe weather plan. Life comes with some unexpecteds, and it is good to anticipate some of them, and to make plans.

There are certain things we can count on, some pleasant to think about others not so much. Very few of us spend much time thinking about our own mortality because it is not pleasant to do so. But then that diagnosis comes, or the body wears down, or we see friends and family of our age group dying, and we begin to face the inevitable that every one of us shall encounter death at some time. There is no escape plan. One of the things that faith does for us, is give us reassurance. God knew that we would need assurance, so God put an assurance plan into place. We call it the gospel message of Jesus that we have celebrated Easter Sunday. Assurance that nothing, even death can separate us from the love of God because of the promise of resurrection. Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God.

God took advanced planning seriously. And we should, too. There are things that we can be doing, planning that can be done which gives reassurance and comfort to our families when time comes to make decisions about healthcare, dying with dignity (end of life choices), disposition of our material possessions, funeral planning (including whether or not to cremate), funeral service planning, and what to do/where to put our bodies and our remains. Advanced planning is a gift that you can give to yourself and your family.

We want to come alongside you to help with your planning, so during the month of April we are offering "Mapping Your Exit" as our Connecting Point class. We have invited some experts to lead us and guide us in our planning. See details in the Connecting Point section, page 8 of the Chimes. We invite you to come and learn what you can plan for and begin putting into writing your wishes. And we ask that you consider sharing your funeral plan with one of the pastors so we can better assist your family when that day comes.

It is our hope and prayer that you will choose advanced planning as a means of reassurance and comfort for yourself and your family for when that inevitable day arrives.

A companion on the journey,  
Pastor Patricia

# Worship & the Arts

## Uniting in Vision-Worship

On Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> we had a Uniting in Vision event at UPC. I was encouraged by the insight, excitement, and thoughtfulness of the dialogue provided by all who were in attendance. As I was leaving for home that evening, I was asking myself, *“what are my hopes and dreams in the next 5 or 10 years for the worship ministry here at UPC?”*

One of the qualities of UPC that attracted me most when I accepted the position in August of 2014 was the commitment to worshipping together as a generationally and theologically diverse community. As an inclusive church, I was overjoyed to see people celebrating their uniqueness and unity as opposed to divisively separating themselves into pockets of people who looked, acted, and believed identically to themselves. To this day, the dedication to faithfully worship in diverse ways as a unified body of believers is still the most attractive quality about UPC for me.

In 5 or 10 years, it would be my hope and dream that UPC would be a leader in intergenerational worship and a leader in the blended form of worship.

To be honest, I don't care if we have the best choir, worship band, bell choir, or celtic group in the city. I don't care if we have the largest attended Christmas concerts in the city. And I don't care if our services are publicized and streamed by the consumers on television or the internet.

I care about a diverse and passionate community worshipping God in unique, creative, and powerful ways as a unified body of Christ-followers.

It is my hope and dream that the Sunday worship binds us together in unified song and prayer that informs, inspires, and connects us with the Gospel message we proclaim unceasingly. It is my dream that the young, old, middle-aged, single, widow, married, outcast, minority, majority, progressive, conservative, gay, straight, Republican, Democrat, black, brown, and white can all find participation and leadership in our worship.

**Put simply, what gets me excited about the ministry I lead is when people find their voice in worship.**

It's when I hear the congregation sing a beloved song with boisterous confidence and conviction. Or when the children of the church have leadership in worship and inform others while being nurtured as a child of God and this community in the process. Or when we have a hymn on organ, a contemporary song with the band, and a song with the choir and bell choir that mutually connect with one another but also offers a different sound of praise to God connecting with a diverse body of believers. Or when we take hymn lyrics hundreds of years old and sing them in relevant and meaningful way in our current context.

No matter what direction we head as a church following the call of the Holy Spirit, may we always worship in such a way where each voice matters and where each voice can find their participation in our communal worship of God.

Aaron Schultz

## Sunday Worship

**April 3:** “The Peculiar Community “

Isaiah 55:8 & 1 Peter 2:9 Pastor Stephen

**April 10:** “The Hopeful Community”

Colossians 1:3-6 & 1 Peter 3:15 Pastor Patricia

**April 17:** “The Serving Community”

Mark 10:35-45 Pastor Stephen

**April 24:** “The Christ Centered Community”

Ephesians 4:1-5 Pastor Stephen

## Chime Stokers and UPC Bell Choir-April 17<sup>th</sup>

We are excited to invite the Chime Stokers to be a part of our worship service on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> as they collaborate with the UPC handbell choir. The Chime Stokers are sponsored by Retreat and Refresh Stroke Camp and their mission is to promote awareness of stroke and the stroke survivor through music performances. They use Chimes as a way of connecting the stroke survivor with the powerful gift of music and their director is a music therapist.

## Worship & the Arts Cont'd

### The Good and Beautiful Community

This spring, UPC is going to reflect on what it means to be the church. Are we just a building? Are we just a community of like-minded believers? Are we a place where our spiritual needs are met? Or are we the body of Christ that is called to sent out into the world as a serving and giving community for the sake of others?

What makes this community we call church different and why should we invest our lives in it?

We'll tackle these questions and more through the book *The Good and Beautiful Community* by James Bryan Smith. Our Sunday worship will focus on a chapter each week, but we are asking you to engage the book outside of worship. If you are committed to this community we call UPC, will you commit to read this book alongside your brothers and sisters? It's just one, easy to read, chapter a week. And we invite you to join one of the many discussion groups that will discuss the book in open forums, so you can share your ideas and experiences. We will have discussion groups on Sunday and Thursday mornings.

If our entire church engages this book together, we'll see a tremendous change in the value we place on our community and our commitment to follow the spirit, extend grace, and share love. I hope and pray you will commit to read this book with us. If you haven't already ordered the book, there are additional copies in the Library and the pastors have some extra copies, too.

We are excited about exploring and celebrating our good and beautiful community together.



April-May 2016

sign ups for book orders and discussion groups  
are on the Welcome Center bulletin board

### No Mid-Month Worship Service in April

There will be no mid-month worship service on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have A Service of Remembrance and Hope on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> held in the sanctuary.

### Help Needed!

Do you enjoy worship, art, drama, concerts, music or liturgy? We are looking for team helpers to assist the Worship and Arts Committee with occasional projects throughout the year. If you have any interest in being involved on a team, please contact Aaron ([aschultz@unitedpc.org](mailto:aschultz@unitedpc.org)) for more information.

## News and Notes

### Baptism Celebration

Join us in celebrating the baptism of Tate Nelson, son of Steve and Sarah Nelson, on Sunday, April 10th during worship.

### Thanks

I want to thank Pastor Stephen, Pastor Patricia, and Parish Nurse Kirsten for their prayers and visits to St. Francis during my recent surgery and recovery. I also want to thank all the church staff and church members for their cards and prayers and the rose. My 2 hour surgery to remove a malignant tumor was Monday Feb 29, and I was released from the hospital late the following Friday. I was back in church on March 13. My point is my speedy recovery was greatly helped by all of your good thoughts and prayers. I will soon begin a 6 month regiment of chemotherapy, so I may need a few more of those good thoughts and prayers. See you in church.

Looking forward to playing golf again,  
*Bob McDowell*



# Connecting Point

## Connecting Point Has Something For Everyone

Connecting Point is every Wednesday beginning with a meal at 5:30pm. Activities for children begin at 6:15 and the adult class begins at 6:30pm. Whether you come for the meal and fellowship, come for the adult class, parent group, Tai Chi, music rehearsals, or for the children's activities, it is a great time to Come and Get Connected!

**5:30 Meal / Handbell Choir**

**6:00 Tai Chi**

**6:15 Activities for children / Worship Band**

**6:30 Adult Classes / Youth Room open**

**7:15 Chancel Choir**

## Connecting Point Adult Class

**Mapping Your Exit.** Our own mortality; it's not something we like to think about, and yet each of us eventually face this reality. Pre-planning can help your spouse and your family when the day comes, and difficult decisions need to be made. We have seen the benefits when pre-planning has occurred. We have guest speakers coming to present information and provide paperwork on the following planning topics.

- April 6            The Importance of The Five Wishes and Medical Power of Attorney: with Kirsten Tharp RN
- April 13          Power of Attorney, Wills, Estates and Trusts with Attorney Jennie Boswell:
- April 20          Funeral planning and Service Planning: with Funeral Director Eric from Wilton Mortuary, and Service planning with Pastor Patricia
- April 27          What about Cremation And benefits of the Memorial Garden?: with guests from Cremation Society and UPC Memorial Garden committee

## Connecting Point Kids!

Children are welcome upstairs for Faith 5, prayer, games and gym time.

## Youth room open for middle school and up!

The youth room will be open during Connecting Point for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and up only. Bring your homework, a book or game and make yourself some hot chocolate. Make sure to clean up after yourself!

## Parent's Gathering

After Connecting Point at dinner— 7:15pm  
Library

We will gather, parents of all ages and stages, to discuss current parenting topics and issues. It is a casual group that finds comfort and solace in sharing our ups and downs as parents. Everyone is welcome to join us.

# News and Notes

## Memorial Garden Special Price Reduction

For centuries, Christians have honored their loved ones with dignified final resting places in churchyards on their grounds. In this tradition, United Presbyterian Church's Memorial Garden provides a place of repose and remembrance in a lovely sacred garden where one can peacefully meditate upon the lives of those who have died.

Located just outside the building on the north side of the grounds, the Memorial Garden is an integral part of UPC's ministry at the end of life. It provides a beautiful, meaningful place where members and their families can proceed directly from a memorial service to inter a loved one near their church home. In celebration of God's everlasting promise, the Memorial Garden provides spiritual comfort and a permanent place to contemplate life eternal. The Garden is an integral part of our United Presbyterian Church community. The Garden has become a place of beauty, areas for quiet reflection, and a sacred place where loved ones are memorialized.

Currently, each plot in the Memorial Garden costs \$1800. The price is all-inclusive, which means there are no other fees at the time of burial. The Memorial Garden Committee is offering a special reduced price of \$1600 for three months beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a great opportunity to make end of life arrangements for yourself or loved ones. If you are interested in learning more about the Memorial Garden or purchasing a plot, please talk to Pastor Stephen.



## Health and Wellness

### A Salty Subject

Sea salt has boomed in popularity in restaurants and supermarket aisles. Many gourmet chefs say they prefer it over table salt for its coarse, crunchy texture and stronger flavor. Manufacturers are using it in potato chips and other snacks because it is “all natural” and less processed than table salt. Some health conscious consumers choose it because it contains minerals like magnesium. Each of these characteristics may set it apart from normal table salt but in one very important area sea salt and table salt are equal: the sodium content.

Many people falsely believe that sea salt is better for you because it has a lower sodium content than regular table salt. Both table salt and most sea salts contain about 40 percent sodium by weight. Here is the key- most sea salts have a larger crystal than table salt, so they may have less sodium by volume (e.g. by teaspoon or tablespoon). A teaspoon of table salt has about 2,300 mg of sodium but a teaspoon of sea salt may contain less sodium, simply because fewer crystals fit into the spoon.

As far as production, sea salt is obtained directly through the evaporation of seawater. It is usually not processed or undergoes only minimal processing. This allows sea salt to retain trace levels of minerals like magnesium, potassium, calcium and other nutrients. Table salt on the other hand, is mined from salt deposits and is processed to give it a fine texture that is easier to use in recipes. Processing strips table salt of any minerals it may have contained and has additives used to help prevent clumping or caking.

Which is better for you? The experts suggest it simply comes down to a taste preference. While the addition of trace minerals and nutrients attracts many, the amounts obtained from eating sea salt are very small and easily obtained through the consumption of a healthy diet. As for sea salt being a lower sodium option- well, that simply isn't the case. Because of the larger crystal size, sea salt may actually be causing people to consume more sodium than with table salt, further increasing their risk of high blood pressure and heart disease.

I challenge each of you to think about your sodium intake. Go to [www.sodiumbreakup.heart.org/](http://www.sodiumbreakup.heart.org/) pledge and take the pledge to reduce your sodium intake today. Read food labels carefully and take the salt shaker off the table and put it back in the cupboard! Your heart will thank you!

Head to [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org) for more information about sodium and some great low-sodium recipes!

Be Well,  
Kirsten Tharp RN, BSN  
Parish Nurse

## Prayer Circle

### Prayer Circle

We pray for the healing hand of God be upon our friends in need of healing: Bob McDowell, Sandie Martin, Randy Saxon, Nadine Moore, Jack Dixon, Bryce Brand, Stephanie Murray, Pete Vallosio, Steve Nordvall, John and Karen Mason, Betty & Bill Keller's granddaughter, Rosa, and Brenda Barrett's mother, Susi Cain.

May our compassionate God grant comfort and strength to the family and friends who are grieving for: Lorraine Bunker, Les Casali, Jeanne Noetzel, Fern Deemie, and Bill Hill.

## QUEST Youth Groups

### Quest Middle School Gatherings

**Sunday, April 10 & 24**

**3:30 – 5:30pm**

Activity TBD. Check your email for updates.

### Quest High School Gatherings

**Sunday, April 10 & 24**

**4:30 – 6:30pm**

Activity TBD. Check your email for updates.

\*Email Karen Miller at [karen@unitedpc.org](mailto:karen@unitedpc.org) to receive weekly youth updates. This will give you access to the most current youth information.

## Youth Christian Education

### Children's 9:00am Education Hour

#### HOLY MOLY!

#### Main Sunday School Room

Children will experience the Bible through HOLY MOLY! Holy Moly follows a four-part sequence: Discover, Relate, Connect, and Create. Each week, kids will watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, read their Bible, and try a creative activity. We are so excited to begin this new journey in our faith!

### Middle & High School 9:00am Education Hour

#### Inter-generational Class with Pastor Stephen Library

In Room 103, Pastor Stephen is leading a multigenerational discussion. Parents are encouraged to bring their children and learn alongside them.

### Children's Sunday School

#### Living Inside Out!

#### Ages 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Children will be escorted from worship after the Time for Young Disciples upstairs to the Sunday school rooms where they will learn how to live their faith inside out! With a monthly theme, the children will experience the Bible through fun, high-energy learning experiences that will be memorable. The excitement will begin with a fun large group time and then take the lesson deeper with small group time by age.

### Journey through Easter Celebration!

#### Sunday, April 3 during Worship

To celebrate our journey through Lent, we will have a morning of songs, games, and snacks during our usual Sunday school time. The kids did a great job travelling with Jesus and now it is time to celebrate our journey.

## Christian Education

## Adult Classes

### Sunday Mornings at 9:00am

#### Journey Through the Bible Room 100

Study the Bible with Don Baker and Gordon Selling  
Join us as we study and learn from the Book of Job.

### The Good and Beautiful Community Book Discussion

To fulfill our plan for church wide study of this informative and transformative book, you have two options for book discussion Sunday mornings.

- In Room 103, Pastor Stephen is leading a multigenerational discussion. Parents are encouraged to bring their children and learn alongside them.
- In Room 107 Pastor Patricia is leading discussion utilizing key questions from the Appendix: Small Group Discussion Guide in the back of the book.
 

Week of April 3	The Peculiar Community
Week of April 10	The Hopeful Community
Week of April 17	The Serving Community
Week of April 24	The Christ Centered Community

### • 11 Minute Lessons 11:11am

We will have a brief discussion on one of the interesting concepts from this week's chapter.

### • Thursday Mornings 10:00am

The Good and Beautiful Community Book Discussion

The Bible Study group chose to participate in the church wide book study following the outline listed above.

## News and Notes

### Dining Books

We still have 20 Dining/Recreational Coupon Books left. The money from the sale of these goes to the "Sharing the Warmth" blanket ministry mission. Would like to get these all sold so we can purchase more blanket kits to gear up for the holidays. These are available for purchase in the church office for the price of \$20.00 each or two for \$35.00. Cash or checks made out to UPC are accepted for payment. If you have any questions please contact Cindy Shipley via email; [cinship56@yahoo.com](mailto:cinship56@yahoo.com)

Thanks for your support-Anna Circle/Mission Committee

## Mission

### Snack Pack

We fill Snack Packs on the fourth Sunday of the month in the Sewing Room (103). Everyone is welcome to help us fill these snack packs. We provide 40 students from Northmoor Elementary with Snack Pack bags every week so that they may have nutritious food and snacks over the weekend. We fill a month's worth of bags every fourth Sunday of the month after worship, and we need help. We also need donations of the following items, especially at least 40 of each:

### Snack Pack Needs:

100% Juice Boxes  
Fruit Cups  
Applesauce  
Granola or Protein Bars  
Beef Sticks  
Dehydrated Fruit Snacks  
Cheese or Peanut Butter Crackers  
Breakfast Cereal Bars

### Workshop on Systematic Racism

Join the Presbytery of Chicago on Saturday, April 16th for a workshop on systematic racism. The purpose of this workshop is to introduce the idea that racism is a systemic, institutional problem of power and to create the rationale for a structural intervention to dismantle it. To address the racism not only present in our world, but also in our neighborhoods and congregations, we must first learn how it was born, nurtured, and grew into the manifestations we see today. Register online at <http://pocintrotosystematicracism.bpt.me> for \$25. The workshop will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Homewood from 9 am to 5 pm. Join our brothers and sisters in a neighboring presbytery to learn more about an issue that affects all of our communities.

### Peace for Peoria to Host Town Hall Event

Meeting Will Bring Together Local Civic,  
Business, and Religious Leaders  
to Answer Community's Questions About Islam

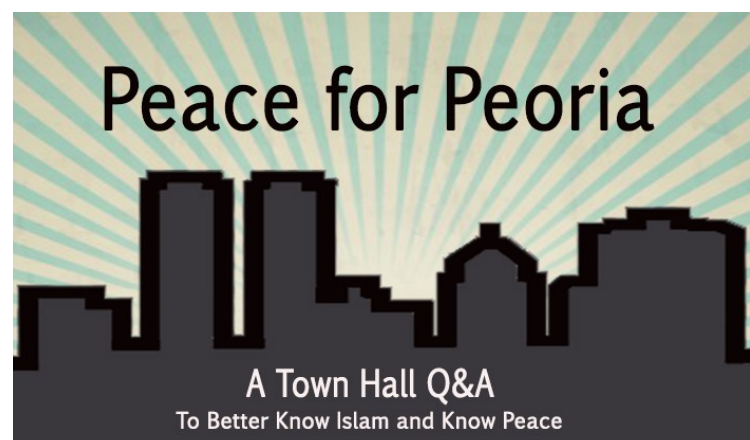
Peace for Peoria will host a Q&A at the Peoria Civic Center Theater on Monday, May 16 from 7:00-8:30pm. A panel of local civic, business, and religious leaders will answer questions from attendees about Islam and Muslims in an effort to promote peace and understanding through education.

Opening remarks will be delivered by Caterpillar CEO Doug Oberhelman, OSF President Michael Cruz, Unity Point President Debbie Simon, and Bradley University President Gary Roberts, with a panel Q&A session to follow. Mayor Jim Ardis will provide closing remarks.

Peace for Peoria is accepting questions ahead of the event to determine which questions are asked most and ensure those are addressed. To submit your question, email [Questions@peaceforpeoria.com](mailto:Questions@peaceforpeoria.com). To RSVP for the event, go to [www.PeaceforPeoria.com](http://www.PeaceforPeoria.com).

Peace for Peoria is an interfaith alliance dedicated to fighting fear by opening doors and hearts, bringing people of diverse faiths together in opposition to irrational fear of Islam and Muslims, building loving relationships rooted in the traditions of each faith without denying their differences, and fellowshiping with the entire city of Peoria.

This event follows Peace for Peoria's March 7 kickoff, "Know Islam. Know Peace." Over 700 people attended the standing-room-only interfaith unity event at the Islamic Foundation of Peoria.



# Stewardship & Finance

## Church Treasurer Money Talk

We all know that contributions to United Presbyterian Church pay for the operations and ministries of the church. Here is a quick review for the year and through February. For the year our pledge budget is \$510,000 and the unpledged budget is \$40,000. Through February the actual figures are \$78,646 for pledges which is 15.42% and for unpledged it is \$8,854 which is 22.14%. February is two months of the twelve month budget which is 16.67% so our pledged income is a little under budget and the unpledged income is over budget.

Compared to last year the pledge budget was \$530,000 and the unpledged budget was \$40,000. The actual results were \$620,616 for pledges and \$71,241.00 for unpledged. Both categories exceed budget by a good amount.

Several comments are in order. The increase for the pledged budget was due to a nice bequest in excess of \$50,000 and matching funds from Foundation contributions to pay off the mortgage which we refer to as MAP. Last year we paid off \$133,394 in mortgage debt and as of the end of February, 2016 we now owe \$790,782.

The pledged income is down this year from last year so there is a concern that we will not have the positive results as we did last year. We are holding the \$50,000 plus bequest in a special account with the hope that we can use it to pay more on the mortgage, but if not we may need those funds for the operating expenses.

As you continue the honor pledges and make gifts to the church, please remember two thoughts: 1) any additional contributions UPC would be a blessing and help to achieve good financial results; and 2) as you do estate planning, please remember United Presbyterian Church in your planning and your will. This recent bequest is a gift from a deceased member and will benefit UPC and our ministries in the future.

One last note; in order to be cost effective, quarterly statements will no longer be sent out. If you need one, feel free to contact the office and they will be glad to print one out.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to me at church.

Thank you,  
Dave Nixon, Church Treasurer

## Online Giving with Realm

A great, new addition to UPC this year is Realm. For those that haven't had a chance to sign up and look around, Realm is an online community that gives us another avenue to connect with each other and with our giving. I have been anxiously waiting for Realm to get set up for months because, for the first time, our congregation has the option to set up and track giving online. For those who prefer operating online or via mobile phone, Realm is everything you could ask for and more in an online tithing option.

The site and payment processing are done via a secure connection, which provides great peace of mind to anyone who may be weary of online giving. Whether you're updating your profile or submitting your one time gift for per capita, Realm operates on an encrypted connection that protects all of your personal information.

Realm is easily accessed via computer, mobile phone, or tablet. The system is user friendly and very easy to navigate. There's no guess work involved throughout the process and instructions are clear. In my online giving experiences so far, I've submitted tithes in less than 3 minutes.

Tithe with flexibility. You can choose to have your tithe submitted from a checking or savings account, your debit card, or your favorite rewards credit card. Additionally, you determine the frequency of your tithe. Set up one time payments or recurring payments on a frequency of your choice (weekly, biweekly, bi-monthly, and monthly). The flexibility to tithe on your schedule and with your preferred method adds a new element to tithing that we haven't had available to us before.

Last, but not least, you no longer have to guess if you're on track with your pledging or if you've contributed to per capita yet this year. A progress bar shows you how much you've given in comparison to your pledge for the year. A ledger of your pledged giving and special contributions is available for viewing and helpful for tracking purposes. I think it's very cool that we see a visual representation of our giving throughout the year.

If you haven't had a chance to check out Realm, pop by the site, [onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org), when you get a few minutes and take a look around. A new way to give is just one of the many options now available to us through this fantastic online system. You can also go straight to online giving by going to the UPC website under "Giving."

*Megan McKeighan*

## Stewardship & Finance Continued

### Lasting Gifts

Has UPC had an important impact on your life? Has it been a place where you can worship, serve, and belong? We hope UPC has changed your life in positive ways so much so that you want to make sure UPC can continue to bring the hope and love of Jesus to new generations. One way you can do that is to prepare a Legacy Gift to UPC in your estate planning. It's a beautiful way to say thank you and help ensure the church will continue to grow and nurture followers of Christ in a welcoming community for years to come. If you would like help making a special legacy gift to UPC in your Estate Planning, please call the church office or talk with a pastor.

## News and Notes

### Thanks

Thanks for the rose while I was in the hospital.  
*Veronica Shumaker*

Dear UPC Members, Thank you so much for all the beautiful Valentine cards and the candy. I read the cards on Valentine's Day and has some of the candy. Thank you again. Thank you to Pastor Patricia for brining them to me. God Bless you,  
*Bertha Mueller*

Dear All,  
Thanks so much for all the Valentine's! They were beautiful and much appreciated. I am back home now.  
Sincerely,  
*Janet McKinty*

Thanks to everyone for all the cards, calls and prayers. Your concern was deeply appreciated.  
*Sara Stotts*

## Church Life

### Arthur, IL on Saturday April 23

Bus trip season has returned. Our first trip of the year is a return trip to a favored location, the Amish village and country living in and around Arthur, IL. We have arranged for authentic home-cooked Amish meal in the home of an Amish family, and for a guided tour of an Amish goat farm. Additionally, we will be following an audio guide to learn the history of this interesting community which will also take us to some country businesses and other areas of interest. Other planned stops include purchasing tickets for the Amish Quilt raffle, shopping at Beachy's Bulk Foods, and other stops as time allows.

The cost for all the trip tour, lunch and transportation is only \$40. Seating on the bus is limited to 13 and can be reserved with pre-payment, so sign up early by contacting the church office. Bus departs from UPC at 7:30am and returns at 5:30pm.

### Bunco

Date: April 8 at 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall  
Bring a \$1 for prizes and snack if you want. Lots of fun, good snacks, and you might win some money.

### Anna Circle

When: April 14th, 6:00pm  
Where: WeaverRidge  
Lesson: Conclusion: *Rebel's Heart, Really Bad Girls of the Bible*  
Mission: Share the Warmth Blanket Ministry

### Eating Together

**Men's Breakfast:** April 14th, at 9:00am at Le Peep

**Local Lunch:** April 18th at 12:00pm at the Fieldhouse in Campus Town

**Ladies Night Out:** April 21st, at 6:00pm@ Pizza Ranch

**Thursday Lunch Bunch:** April 28th at 11:30am