



United
Presbyterian
Church
of Peoria, Illinois

The Chimes



Lent Schedule

Volume.15 Issue.2 February 23, 2018

Wednesday, February 21

Lenten Series 11:30 am

Rev. Laura

Sunday, February 21

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

Rev. Laura

Wednesday, February 28

Lenten Series 11:30 am

Rev. Laura

Sunday, March 4, Communion

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19

"The Heavens Are Telling"

Rev. Laura

Wednesday, March 7

Lenten Series 11:30 am

Rev. Laura

Sunday, March 11

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

"Just As Moses Lifted Up the Serpent"

Rev. Laura

Wednesday, March 14

Lenten Series 11:30 am

Rev. Laura

Sunday, March 18

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12

"I Will Write it Upon Their Hearts"

Rev. Laura

Wednesday, March 21

Lenten Series 11:30 am

Passion/Palm Sunday, March 25

Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

"The Lord Need It"

Rev. Laura

Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm, Sanctuary

UPC Discovery Easter Worship

Good Friday

March 30, 7:00 pm

Readings from John 18:1-19: 42

Rev. Laura

Easter Day/Resurrection of the Lord

April 1

Sunrise Service 6:45 am

Upper Grandview Drive Park,

3615 N Grandview Drive

Bring your own lawn chair. Donuts will be provided.

10:00 am Service

Isaiah 25:6-9

"Who Will Roll Away the Stone?"

Rev. Laura



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March Calendar

Insert

Rev. Laura's Letter

Church Leadership**Session****Laurie Hartshorn, Clerk of Session****Class of 2018**

Jenna Hague

Mark Hanson

Linda Kelley

Ralph Krall

Cindy Shipley

Class of 2019

Charlotte Cronin

Mary Jo Mays

Alicia McKeighan

Megan McKeighan

Kathy Nordvall

Class of 2020

Tim Cole

Deb Hanson

Don Hartshorn

Pam Madden

Alexis Maloof

Board of Deacons**Class of 2018**

Victoria Best

Marcia Boyer

Rose Dickerson

Vicki Ghidina

Angie Gross

Laurie Hartshorn

Michael Kelley

Ron Kirchgessner

Charlene Mousty

Sandy Nott

Rose Schmollinger

Trudy Sholtz

Class of 2019

Theresa Bender

Ken Krancher

John Madden

Sue McGill

Rick Noetzel

Deb Paul

Nancy Pogue

Bev Ranson

Myrna Schwarz

Class of 2020

Bill Barrett

Judi Beck

Audrey Beeney

Pat Bensing

Theresa Buley

Betty Downard

Ann Gropp

Megan Marsh

Nancy Thompson

Session Committee Liaisons

Church Life

Hospitality & Growth

Christian Education

Human Resources

Member Care

Mission

Properties

Stewardship & Finance

Worship & the Arts

Preschool

Charlotte Cronin

Linda Kelley

Cindy Shipley

Alicia McKeighan & Pam Madden

Mary Jo Mays & Deb Hanson

Jenna Hague

Don Hartshorn

Megan McKeighan & Tim Cole

Mark Hanson & Christy Tharenos

Kathy Nordvall

Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower the church.

Interested in joining United Presbyterian Church?
Contact the pastor or visit our website at: www.unitedpc.org.

Church Life

Anna Circle

When: Thursday, March 8th, 6:00 pm

Where: Weaver Ridge

Lesson: Chapter 5, *The Girl's Still Got It*

Mission: Share the Warmth Blanket Ministry

BUNCO

March 9th, 7:00 pm

Bring a dollar for prizes, and snacks to share. See you there for fun and games. For more info call Eunice Andrews at 688-8458 or Betty Pugh at 822-8500.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31

9:30 – 11:30 am

We invite the entire community and hope you will join us. Easter Egg Hunts are for ages infants up to age 10. There will be food, pictures, activities, and prizes. Hunt starts at 10:00 am.

Candy for Easter Eggs Needed

Candy donations of individually wrapped pieces to fill 4000 eggs, are needed to make our hunt a success. You can drop off donations in the church office. Help us fill eggs after worship on Sunday, March 25. We appreciate all the help.

Eating Together

Ladies Night Out: March 15, 2018, 6:00 pm at Bob Evans in Peoria. RSVP to Eunice at 688-8458 or Betty at 822-8500. Come early and visit. If you forget to RSVP, come anyway.

Spring Bus Trip

A Spring Bus Trip is being planned for Saturday, April 14th to the Rock Island Arsenal. Sights include: Mississippi River Visitor Center at Lock and Dam #15 and Exhibits; Rock Island Arsenal Museum; Lunch on your own; and the Quad City Botanical Center. Bus cost is \$10.00 and may be paid in the church office to hold your seat. The Botanical Garden Center will cost \$6.00. The bus will leave the church at 7:30 am and return approximately 5:00 pm. Watch for more details in the next CHIMES.

Children's Sunday School

Lent/Easter

After Time with Young Disciples in worship

Upstairs Sunday school rooms

We will be combining worship, science, art and more as we explore stories from the Bible. Although the classes will be learning the same things each week, activities will be geared toward the specific age groups.

Note: On 1st Sundays, 3rd – 6th grade will be in worship and the two younger classes will return for Communion and the end of the service. Parents can pick up children in the balcony. If you would prefer your child not to receive the Lord's Supper, please let us know.

There are 3 classes:

PreK – Kindergarten

1st - 2nd grade

3rd - 6th grade

March 4: We will hear the Mystery of Easter story through Godly Play and hope to return to worship in time for Communion. (3rd – 6th grade will be in Worship)

March 11: We will experience the story through making our own Easter story in an egg.

March 18: We will create art through the story on canvas.

March 25: We will all gather together in the kitchen to make an empty tomb snack and explore the story further.



Pastoral Prayers

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Betty Keller
Barb Livingston
Jon Wrigley
Kim Wrigley
Dave Nixon
Josh Swank
Larry Stotts
Sara Stotts
Midge Hillard
Jaxson Harper
Julie Mills
Dean Peoples
Pearl Packard
Ken Bowers
Paula Farrar

Our Christian sympathy for the family of Earl Craig;
brother-in-law of Cindy Shipley.



Save the Dates

The **Meet Your Deacon Potluck** will be April 22nd following worship. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. More information will be in the March CHIMES.



A One-Day Sewing Retreat will be held April 7th from 8:00 am—5:00 pm. A \$5.00 registration fee will hold your table in this event open to everyone. Mark your calendars today and watch for more information in the March CHIMES.

News from the Pews

Thank You Notes

Thank you to all the Sunday morning office duty volunteers in 2017. I appreciate your time and dedication to this small but important ministry on Sunday mornings and calling the hospitals to follow up on any members we may have hospitalized so that we can include them in our prayers during worship. Hopefully I haven't forgotten any volunteers. I truly appreciate all of you.

Rose Schmollinger, Sandy Nott, Judi Beck, Betty Pugh, Theresa Bender, Jeri Maher, Julie Watson, Pam Madden, Mary Jo Mays, Lowell Gropp, Debbie Hanson, and Christie Cook.

Thank you, Ann Gropp

Thank you for the beautiful red rose Dave received during his recent hospital stay and to Rev. Laura for her visit. We truly appreciate all the cards, notes, kind words and continued prayers. Your support means so very much to us. Thank you all.

Dave and Kathy Nixon

Thank you for the beautiful red rose, Rev. Laura's visit, and the notes from Sandy Nott and Betty Pugh. All was very much appreciated.

Betty Keller

I would like to thank you for all your support and very much appreciate the many cards I received upon my Father's recent passing. It's been a tough journey but knowing you're there with me means so much.

Sabrina McGrath

Finance Secretary

Dear UPC Members,

Thanks so much for the lovely Valentine bag with all the pretty cards, the pencil and pencil sharpener, and all the goodies. Also thank you to Mike Kelly for bringing them to me. It was such a nice surprise. Thank you also to the children for their help. Thank you for remembering me.

Bertha Mueller

Christian Education

Women's Bible Study

Get your surveys in. Pick one up at welcome center or talk to Karen. Christian Education committee will begin getting things organized at their next meeting and get moving on starting some wonderful studies and possibly even more wonderful relationships.

Adult Sunday School

9:00 am Sunday Education Hour

Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet Sewing Room

Everyone is welcome as we explore Adam Hamilton's study that explores the sites of Moses' life from the Nile River to the Reed Sea, from Mt. Sinai to the wilderness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text, Hamilton will guide us in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who blazed a trail of faith.

Director of Children & Youth Ministries

By Karen Miller

Early in February I attended the annual event for the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators. It is an incredible couple of days where over 600 educators gathered in Louisville, Kentucky and explored the idea of Boundless Hospitality. During one of the worship services, we heard a powerful sermon from Rev. Sandra VanOpstal where she challenged us to look beyond the idea of hospitality having a host and a guest.

As she preached on Luke 19:5-7 about Zacchaeus up in the tree she said something so powerful:

"It's all about creating a new family. All this time we've been inviting people to leave their homes and come to church and all the while Jesus' instructions were just the opposite. He showed hospitality by going into people's homes. Jesus was doing something so radical, disruptive, and uncivilized because he was going into the home of someone that was hated in the community to say, I see you and I love you. When you have people over to your house, you have all the power. When you go to someone else's house, you have NO POWER. Jesus emptied himself of power to show hospitality."

It is easy to show up for church on Sunday and welcome the new faces. It is a totally different story to go out into the world and show hospitality. That is why it is so crucial that we start teaching this to our young people so it becomes rooted in them that we face the uncomfortable of going out into the community to serve.

When we first served a meal at the Salvation Army in January, the youth were visibly nervous. There were 30+ homeless gentlemen there for a meal and they wondered what they thought having some teenagers serve them. They warmed up a bit until I encouraged them to go out and eat with the men. This was an even harder task. One that even backfired as some youth tried to engage a gentleman in conversation, but he just wanted to watch the football game. But they did it. They let go of all their power, standing behind the serving station and going out into the people. And I was so proud.

This summer will be another challenge for them as we travel to Orlando for our mission trip. There the youth will be letting go of their power and immersing themselves into the lives of people who have had so many challenges and so much pain. The youth will get to be a part of one of the happiest times of their lives and the work will be rewarding, but they will also be faced with emotions and challenges. Knowing that the people they meet that week will have to go back to daily treatments and pain, sadness and loss.

Jesus never promised that this journey would be easy, but the rewards are endless with boundless hospitality.

If you would like to journey along with the youth as they raise funds for their trip, check out the board underneath the announcements screen in the narthex. There will be a special offering taken for the trip on March 18th as well as dinner fundraisers and a Service Auction you can read more about in this Chimes.



Parish Nurse

Protect Yourself from Tax Time Scams

The IRS reminds people this tax season that they can easily identify when a supposed IRS caller is a fake. Here are four things the scammers often do but the IRS and its authorized PCAs will not do. Any one of these things is a telltale sign of a scam.

The IRS and its authorized private collection agencies will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. The IRS does not use these methods for tax payments. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes. All tax payments should only be made payable to the U.S. Treasury and checks should never be made payable to third parties.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- Demand that taxes be paid without giving the taxpayer the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone. If you don't owe taxes, or have no reason to think that you do:
- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration to report the call. Use "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page. You can also call 800-366-4484.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

This year's tax deadline is Tuesday, April 17. If you need tax preparation assistance contact the Parish Nurse for a complete list of locations.

Be Well,
Kirsten Tharp, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

LIVE, LOVE, LENT-

If you see people around UPC suddenly snacking on fruits and veggies or passing up that extra cup of coffee for some water- they might be participating in the "Live, Love, Lent" wellness challenge. Over 40 people are challenging themselves during lent to positively impact their body, mind and spirit. It is not too late to sign up- just email kirstenrn@unitedpc.org to get started. Winners will be announced in April!



News From the Pews

Thank You Notes

Thank you so much to everyone for the Valentines. Larry and I had so much sitting and opening them. We love you all and miss seeing everyone at UPC. Larry and Sara Stotts

Thank you so much for all the Valentines and goodies in the bag. I really appreciated the visit by my Visiting Deacon, Ken Krancher. Bill Bunker

Thank you so much to all who were involved with making and distributing the Valentines. It was especially nice that our visiting deacon, Rose Schmollinger, read each one to Jack. He really laughed about the one with Cupid. This is another example of how thoughtful and love UPC is. Jack and Pat Bensing



Youth Groups

JUMP START – a youth group for ages 8-11.

RUSH – a youth group for ages 12-15.

QUEST – a youth group for ages 16+.

JUMP START

Sunday, March 11

Join us for devotion, games, and snack in Fellowship Hall.

RUSH 3:30 – 5:00 pm/

QUEST 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 11

Will have separate meetings

Join us for fellowship and devotion.

RUSH /QUEST COMBINED

Sunday, March 18

Serve Dinner at Salvation Army

4:00 – 6:00 pm

We will meet at church by 4:00 pm to prep the food to take down to the Salvation Army around 4:30 pm. We should be done by 6:30 pm. Let Karen know if a ride is needed.

RUSH/QUEST COMBINED

Sunday, March 25

Youth Worship Service

3:30 – 5:00 pm

RUSH and Quest will worship together in the youth room and share in fellowship. Come out to dinner with your family at Oliver's after!

UPC YOUTH



Do you have a particular skill that you can “donate” to our youth mission trip fund? We will be having a silent auction for those gifts and talents from April 1st through April 15th. Some ideas are babysitting, painting, gardening, hauling heavy items away, cleaning, sewing/art lesson, a photography session, baking a birthday cake, home cooked meal, a rental of cabin or vacation home. You can also list a service you need and what you will pay and we can see if we can fill it. The options are limited to your imagination. You will have 6 months to coordinate with the winner of the auction to redeem your service. Contact Karen Miller at karen@unitedpc.org with any questions.

I would like to volunteer my time and/or talent for the silent auction!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please provide a description of the skill or talent that you would like to donate: _____

Worship & the Arts

VIVID

Sunday, March 4

Join us as we have a special Easter VIVID. Dinner will be served.



Easter Flowers

This year we are purchasing lilies, daffodils, and tulips from a local florist to decorate the sanctuary for Easter morning. Pastor Laura has significant allergies to flowers (*especially* the strongly scented kind like lilies!) so we are going to have less flowers in the sanctuary this year. If you would like to help offset the cost of the decorative flowers for the sanctuary, please do so by putting "Easter flowers" in the memo line and send a check into the church or call the office. Donations can be made "in memory" or "in honor" of a loved one and a list of donors will be listed on the screens on Easter morning.

Holy Week Worship Opportunities

There are many ways to worship with us during Holy Week. The **Palm Sunday** worship service is Sunday, March 25th at 10:00 am where the children will lead the traditional procession of the Palms. On **Maundy Thursday**, March 29th, the children of UPC Discovery will lead us in a Lenten Worship Service at 6:30 pm with a milk and cookie reception to follow. The **Good Friday** service will be on Friday, March 30th at 7:00 pm and will feature a reflection from Laura, wonderful liturgy, and music from the music ministry of the church.

Easter Worship Services

On Easter Sunday, April 1st, we will offer two worshipping opportunities. The sunrise service will be held at sunrise (around 6:45 am) at Upper Grandview Drive Park (3615 N Grandview Dr) in Peoria. If you have some extra lawn chairs, please bring them in case seating on the picnic benches runs out. Donuts will be provided! Our second worship service will be at 10:00 am at the UPC campus and will feature an Easter sermon from Pastor Laura and wonderfully joyful Easter music. Invite friends and family to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Chip Roland Receives Award from OSF Healthcare St. Francis Medical Center!

UPC's very own Reverend Christopher (Chip) Roland won the Sunflower Award for September 2017! The Sunflower Award is used to recognize a non-nursing caregiver who demonstrates outstanding compassion and care. Chip received this award out of everyone at OSF Hospital, so next time you see him be sure to congratulate him on this honor! Below is a comment from his nomination by a mother of one of his patients:

"When my son came into the ER in an ambulance with no pulse, and myself and my family were at the depths of despair, he stayed with us. He consoled us. He helped me get permission to be in the ER room so that I could hold my son's hand. He was a blessing in our time of sorrow."

Thank you Chip for all of the wonderful work you are doing, the countless lives you are impacting, and the love of Christ you are extending to the patients and the families you serve.



Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

During Lent we spend time together hearing about and praying for the ministries of compassion and justice done through our support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering helps us share this same good news to those same vulnerable people in our world today: those who are hungry, who are suffering from disaster, who are dealing with oppression in society.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

During the past four years our congregation has opted to collect the offering known as One Great Hour of Sharing in support of Projecto Amar school in Brazil. This mission is still close to our hearts and the Mission committee will be providing an opportunity to learn more about how you can support this important mission later this spring.

Received during the season of Lent (February 14 – April 1), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

One Great Hour of Sharing, makes a difference in the world.

- PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) : Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees : Receives 32% of funds raised
- PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP) : Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed : Receives 36% of funds raised
- SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP) : Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues : Receives 32% of funds raised

Every gift made to this offering will meet the needs of people, and you will hear about just a few of these individuals over the coming weeks in service. These stories will help us to see the face of those whose lives have been changed by our gifts, but they are only a few of the thousands and thousands of people served in this important ministry. You may also visit the One Great Hour of Sharing website (www.presbyterianmission.org/oghs) to find out more information on how your support of OGHS helps people all over the world, and offer prayers for the projects and people who receive them.



Nature Connections

Spring into Nature

A Nature Connections Event

You knew spring would come! Join Nature Connections and prepare for the coming of spring to God's Natural World.

March 11, 11:15

Fellowship Hall



Activities for All Ages!

- Make a real wood bird house
- Create a nesting materials ornament to give or hang
- Get milkweed seeds and find out where to plant
- Sign up to help with one of our church gardens
- IF we have spring flowers, take a walk to find them!

And See

Connecting with God's Natural World

Photo Contest Display

Vote for your favorite for People's Choice.

March Calendar will go here when done.