

## UPC January Newsletter 2022

### **BIRTHDAYS**

04-Jeff Watne  
05-Robert Rier  
08-Peg Bunn  
10-Joyce Griffith  
10-Cooper Keller  
12-Carla Kem  
13-Keith Bell  
24-Paul Eekhoff  
25-Travis Langfitt  
29-Adam Nerlien

### **CALENDAR**

1-02 Worship 9:00 am  
1-04 Blood Drive 1-6 pm  
1-09 Worship 9:00 am  
1-12 Session Meeting 3:00 pm / Deacon Meeting 6:00 pm  
1-16 Worship 9:00 am / Celebration of Communion / Annual Meeting  
1-23 Worship 9:00 am  
1-30 Worship 9:00 am

Church family and friends,  
May we all be blessed with a Happy New Year!

I do want to remind everyone that each of our two churches will be voting at our annual meetings in January on the idea of sharing worship each Sunday. The session will be responsible to make the final decision at the Presbyterian Church. The vote at the annual meeting will be the final decision at the Congregational Church.

Please continue to pray for both of our churches and the future of our individual ministries as well as the ministry we do together. Let me say this again. I am excited to be a part of these two church families and appreciate how we have worked together in the past, how we are working together right now and how we will work together in the future. May God continue to bless and guide us!

Here is part of a recent devotion from Jennifer Garrison Brownell, pastor of Vancouver United Church of Christ.

*"I don't know what happens at your house, but the day after Christmas is generally a pretty low energy affair around here – recycling wrapping paper, heating up leftovers and wondering whether there's really any reason to change out of pajamas. The year is nearing its end, and we usually wouldn't even poke a head out of the door to witness its waning days.*

*As the season winds down, it can be tempting to check praise off our list, the way we checked off wrapping presents for the in-laws or baking the Christmas goose, relieved that that's over and we don't have to think about it for another year. But the psalm today invites us to remember that praise isn't just for special seasons, it's for every day and everywhere."*

Speaking of Psalm 148, Brownell points out that this is the third-to-last Psalm and the writer seems to be sprinting to a finish. The writer of this Psalm calls all of creation into a vigorous,

### **GREETERS**

Jan. 02 Jill & Jeff Watne  
Jan. 09 Kakacek Family  
Jan. 16 Donna & Todd Studer  
Jan. 23 Paul Hardy & Bob Reir  
Jan. 30 Mary & Roger Kallem

**ACOLYTE**-Kohen Langfitt

### **COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH**

\*Amanda & Travis Langfitt  
Heinz Schmid

exclamatory act of praise and rejoicing. Brownell says that she is going to remember that she too is one of God's creatures and that she is going to sing praises that flow with each breath – even as tired as she is.

Great idea Rev Brownell!  
Pastor Bill

Session Minutes  
United Presbyterian Church  
Clarion, Iowa  
December 8, 2021

The stated meeting of the Session was held Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Those in attendance: Carol Chapman, Jeff Fankhauser, Kevin Kakacek, Mary Kallem, Frank Sharp, Karen Wason, and Rev. Bill Kem. Excused was Deb Olson, Clerk. Rev. Kem opened with devotions and prayer.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Session approved the Treasurer's Report.

**Secretary's Report:** The Session approved the Secretary's Report.

**Pastor's Report:** Rev. Kem asked for vacation for March 14 – 20. It was approved by consensus. Rev. Kem stated that Sherri O'Brian agreed to be Deacon for a 3-year term and Scott Wason agreed to continue for three years. Karen Wason and Jeff Fankhauser agreed to continue as Elders for three years. We approved by consensus to have a Congregational Meeting on December 19 to elect these officers. The annual Meeting will be on January 16, 2022.

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be December 12, 2021 at 5:30. Karen Wason will help serve the cookies after the program. Our church will make the coffee, and lemonade.

Nancy Reyna, Church Office Assistant, requested that we buy her 15 hours of vacation time she has coming. It is \$240.25. We agreed to do so either with a gift card or in cash.

**Personnel Team:** We received the Personnel Team Report. It was recommended that Rev. Kem and Nancy Reyna receive a 6.4% raise and Dan Reyna receive a 3.3% raise. It was M/S/A. that we accept the recommendation for the Personnel Team.

We worked on a letter that is going out to the Congregation about the Sharing Worship.

Rev Kem closed with prayer at 4:30

December 12, 2021

A called meeting of the Session was held in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Those in attendance were: Carol Chapman, Jeff Fankhauser, Kevin Kakacek, Mary Kallem, Frank Sharp, Karen Wason, Deb Olson, Clerk, and Rev. Bill Kem, Moderator.

Discussion involved the procedure for gathering the congregation's opinions on sharing worship with the United Church of Christ Congregational year round, alternating Sundays in each building. An explanation letter will be sent to members of the congregation asking for their thoughts. These thoughts will be gathered and made available for all to read. The congregation will vote on this matter January 16, 2022. Session will make the final decision.

Meeting adjourned.