

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2020 NEWLETTER

BIRTHDAYS

04 – Jeff Watne	12 – Carla Kem
05 – Robert Rier	13 – Keith Bell
08 – Peg Bunn	23 – Chris Bro
10 – Joyce Griffith	24 – Paul Eekhoff
10 – Cooper Keller	25 – Travis Langfitt
11 – Mark Fisher	29 – Adam Nerlien
11 – Kassidi Withers	

GREETERS

05 – Amanda & Travis Langfitt  
12 – Paul Hardy &  
19 – Tricia & Greg Polzin  
26 – Sam & Darrin Waller

USHERS

Travis Langfitt  
Jeff Watne  
Kevin Kakacek

ACOLYTE

Tristan Kakacek

COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH

\*Sarah & Kevin Kakacek  
Regina & Lance LaRue  
Caroling Ammerman

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I read an article the other day that I thought was helpful and I thought I should pass some of it along to you. I don't think it is brand new information, but I do think it is an important reminder for all of us. As I look forward to the New Year I am going to do my best to remember the following truths shared by Adam Borneman from Macedonian Ministry.

Borneman makes the point that disruption of our life and plans is constant and unavoidable. In spite of all the evidence that supports this truth, we tend to treat disruption as the exception rather than the rule. Being surprised and upset about the disruption in our lives can set us up for constant disappointment and struggle.

To counteract this disappointment and struggle, Borneman makes the following suggestions.

- Create slack in our schedule in anticipation of the unexpected.

- Hand things off to others and trust them.

- Being flexible is a necessity.

- Know that others may be disappointed with disruption and be prepared.

These are great ideas for all of us. As much as we might hope for things to flow smoothly 100% of the time, we now that they do not.

I really liked this sentence from Borneman. **If disruption is assumed, ministry (and I would say life) will become more like the joy of navigating a river than paddling around a lake where the slightest disturbance seems out of place.**

My prayer is that I would embrace these truths throughout the coming New Year.

May God bless us each with a Happy New Year!

Pastor Bill

Session Minutes  
United Presbyterian Church  
Clarion, Iowa  
November 20, 2019

The stated meeting of the Session was held Wednesday, November 2019, at 7:00 p.m. In the Conference Room. Those in attendance: Peg Bunn, Jeff Fankhauser, Mark Fisher, Mary Kallem, Karen Wason, and Rev. Bill Kem, Moderator. Rev. Kem opened with prayer.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Session voted to approve the Treasurers Report. It was noted that the \$35,000 from the Endowment Fund needs to be placed in an investment fund and not be part of the General Fund.

**CLERKS REPORT:** Session voted to approve the October Minutes. It was approved by the Session to allow Brittany Howieson to use the Fellowship Hall on December 14, Lifeserve Blood may use the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday afternoons in 2020 for their blood drive. It was also allow that Rev. Bill Kem use the Fellowship Hall in December. The Session elected Deb Olson as Clerk of Session in 2020. There was a letter from Kevin Kakacek stating that he can no longer be church treasurer due to the fact that he is responsible for investing church money. We will begin looking for a new treasurer. Communion servers for November are Mark and Peg.

**PATORS REPORT:** Scheduled dates for 2020: Ash Wednesday Service at UPC, Maundy Thursday Service at UCCC, Annual Meeting January 19, 2020. Winter Sunday School Kickoff with a unified Service January 26. Stewardship Sunday will be December 15 plus a congregational meeting to elect 2020 Elders and Deacons. New member possibilities have been contacted. Rev. Kem will talk to those who are interested about having a class to give information and answer questions. We have been asked to donate 2 vegetable trays and small plates for the Community Thanksgiving Meal at First Lutheran Church.

**DEACONS:** Hannah Johnson who runs the Clothes Closet and Food Pantry at First Lutheran Church will deliver fresh food to the Back Pack families.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:** The Ham Ball Dinner was a success: We made \$1488. We are donating \$150 to the Lutheran Clothes Closet and \$150 to Refuge Relief through the PCUSA.

**ADVENT TEAM:** Caroling will be December 8 at 2:30 in the afternoon with hot chocolate and cookies following at the church.

**MISSION TEAM:** The North Central Iowa mission trip will be to Florida.

**NOMINATING TEAM:** Nominated for 2020, Elders: Frank Sharp and Mary Kallem, Deacons: Greg Chapman and Paul Hardy.

Rev. Kem closed the meeting with prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Session Minutes  
United Presbyterian Church  
Clarion, Iowa  
December 11, 2019

The stated meeting of the Session was held Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. A quorum was declared. Those in attendance: Jeff Fankhauser, Mary Kallem, Karen Wason, Deb Olson, Clerk, and Rev. Bill Kem, Moderator. Excused: Peg Bunn, Mark Fisher, Malinda Howieson. Rev. Kem opened with devotions and prayer.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Session voted to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was noted that the approximately \$37,000.00 from the Endowment Fund will be placed in an investment fund. A list of Treasurer's responsibilities needs to be made.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Session voted to approve the November Minutes.

Session reviewed the Minutes Book, which was approved October 24.

Communion servers for December 15: Mark & Mary

Session received \$50.00 from the Holmes Christmas Club to give to a member in need.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** The Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Lutheran Church went well.

There will be a congregational meeting December 15 to elect Elders and Deacons.

Prospective members met with Rev. Kem December 8 for questions, answers, and discussion.

\$241.00 from the Helping Hands Fund was used to assist a high school student with school lunch.

The Iowa Ride (Bicycle ride across Iowa) will arrive in Clarion July 15 for an overnight stay. 5,000 riders, 1,000 support people, with possibly up to 9,000 total could be in attendance.

The United Church of Christ Congregational will join the United Presbyterian Church for worship December 29.

Session approved January 5, 2020, a vacation day for Rev. Kem.

**DEACONS:** The Deacons will send \$100.00 to the United Methodist Church youth group. They will also send \$100.00 to Freedom for Youth which provides weekly meals.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:** Our church has received the summer camp registration. \$300.00 was raised from the Hanging of the Greens brunch. The PW will continue to pay half of the costs for campers. The PW will pay 100% of the costs for anyone who is unable to financially attend. The PW will not pay for campers who attend a camp other than the Presbyterian Camp.

**ADVENT TEAM:** 8 church members went caroling, and enjoyed the time of fellowship. It was suggested to possibly practice singing Christmas carols during worship to encourage more to attend. January 26 will be a joint worship service between the UPC, UCCC, and Lutheran Church to support a midyear Sunday School Kickoff.

**HOSPITALITY TEAM:** next scheduled meeting – January 22

**LENTEN TEAM:** next scheduled meeting – January 8

**MISSIONS TEAM:** The Missions Team gave to the following:

\$1,200.00 - McCurrys, missionaries in Kenya

\$500.00 - Hannah Johnson, Clothes Closet & Food Pantry

\$500.00 - Neil Bunn, 99 Ways

\$1,000.00 - local person in need

\$500.00 - Presbytery Mission Trip

All of the above funds came from the interest earned from the Mission Investment Fund.

**PERSONNEL TEAM:** Session approved the pastor's compensation package of \$108,053.91, with the UPC responsible for \$54,026.96.

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM:** Session approve the budget for 2020 - \$167,881.49, with the UPC responsible for \$113,854.53.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Session discussed a vow renewal request. A called Session meeting will be held after worship on December 15.

Rev. Kem closed the meeting with prayer at 8:50 p.m.

## MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING DEC. 4, 2019

Present at the Dec. 4 Mission Committee were: Ted and Peg Bunn, Roger Kallem, Mary Goemaat, Paul Hardy, Chris Sharp, and Rev. Bill Kem. Following prayer, discussion of various topics ensued. There are concerns that several mission sites were so distant that more time was spent in travel, limiting the amount of time/work at the site. Kevin Kakacek is resigning as treasurer for the committee as the funds are held in his company.

As part of our responsibilities in managing the mission grant fund, we considered various needs in the Clarion area. Several projects/needs were considered. A decision to divide the available funds was approved as follows:

A local woman's water bill:	\$1000
'99 Ways' childrens' ministry	\$500
Hannah Johnson: Lutheran food and clothing drive:	\$500
McCurry mission work:	\$1200
South Texas Community Dev'ment:	\$424.24
Florida Mission Trip:	\$500
2018 Mission Trip (previously sent):	\$900
Total:	\$5024.24

The disbursements were approved by a unanimous vote.

Roger Kallem will reconnect with his friend Rich King in Marshalltown to determine if a mission project in that area would be welcomed. Mary Goemaat will begin a drive to collect paper products for Hannah Johnson's ministry, specifically bath and facial tissue, sanitary products and the like. It was noted that the number of backpack meals requested has dropped significantly this year, serving only 5 families. This may be due in part to free breakfasts and

Are you good with computers and details? Become a VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) volunteer! It is both rewarding and fun. Learn more by contacting Wright County Extension, 515-532-3453 or Barb Wollan, local site coordinator at [bwollan@iastate.edu](mailto:bwollan@iastate.edu) or 515-832-9597. Volunteer greeters are also needed.

If you are planning to register for camp, go to [www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org](http://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org) and use the code **clarion20** for 50% off!!