

The Link

Unionville Presbyterian Church

**JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 2020**

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Symptoms of Inner Peace – Annalie's Wish for 2020

1. The tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than from fears
2. The ability to enjoy each moment
3. Loss of interest in judging self and others
4. Loss of interest in conflict
5. Disinterest in interpreting the actions of others
6. Loss of the ability to worry
7. Frequent episodes of appreciation
8. Feeling connected to others and nature
9. Frequent attacks of smiling through the eyes of the heart
10. The increasing tendency to let things happen rather than to make them happen



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If you have all or even most of the above symptoms your condition of peace may be so far advanced as to not be treatable!

We usually associate the word "symptom" with something ominous, an indication of illness or disease perhaps; symptoms are symptomatic of something - and it's usually not good. This is also true of words like "diagnosis" and "prognosis" - it's best when none of these words apply to us.

But, as the above list indicates, there can be positive as well as negative symptoms, signs not only of illness but also of health. Symptoms of inner peace are an indication of spiritual vitality, a delicate state of being in which we are at one with life, ourselves, others, and nature.

Because nothing can disrupt inner peace as quickly as the awareness of our faults, it is important to be both nonjudgmental and compassionate toward ourselves as people who are flawed. French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal once stated, "The unhappiness of a person resides in one thing, to be unable to remain peacefully in a room." Until we learn to accept our less-than-perfect selves, both peace and happiness will elude us and we will create havoc, not peace, for those around us.

Inner peace can be contagious. When we spend time quietly acknowledging and accepting ourselves, others, and the world as both broken and blessed, that peace can be fanned into a full-blown disease, an untreatable and incurable affliction that will make the world a healthier place.

Blessings, Rev. Annalie

State of the Church

Sometimes when I visit an older person at home or at the hospital and I ask them how they are doing, they reply, "I'm in pretty good shape for the shape I'm in." Overall, I think that statement describes Unionville Presbyterian Church.

In some ways, our vital signs are really good. We bless the community in many ways, particularly our support of the Kennett Area Community Services and Family Promise of Southern Chester County. We keep involved in on-going ministries like the Deacons, the Pet Blessing, Law Enforcement Sunday, and many

opportunities for community and congregational fellowship.



We continue to host a vibrant and growing Alcoholics Anonymous group, and continue our support of the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts as they use space in our building. We bring the children and youth into leadership of worship services once a month and are grateful to the leadership of our Director of Children's Ministry, Elizabeth Ginter Conners, and Kathleen Hohenadel. Each month the children work on a service pro-

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ject for our community. They have made first-aid kits for Young Moms, heating pads for elderly residents of Pocopson Home, and snack bags for Family Promise. Our Children's program ministers to our youngest and continues to expose our kids to practical ways to be the Body of Christ in the world.

We are challenged to rethink church as we see some of our historic ministries yielding diminishing results. Adult Sunday School and Bible study opportunities don't bring the crowds they used to. We have rethought our Children's and Youth Ministries to reflect the busyness and shifting priorities of our young families. More than ever, attending church and church activities are at the bottom of a long list of activities available on any given day, especially Sundays.

Stewardship-wise, the WWII Builder generation, who give because they were taught that's the right thing to do, is dying out. The Boomers, who shop around to get the most "bang for the buck," now aging and living in an era of decreased return on their investments, live in a "time share" relationship with the church – decreasing both their offerings and involvement. This translates into a slow and steady decline in attendance and offerings over the last 8 to 10 years, with the pace accelerating in the last three years.

The good news for UPC is that we do have an endowment fund, however we try not to overuse that fund. We have used it as it is designed -

for the maintenance and upkeep of the church and its mission.

As the pastor, I see a (narrowing) gap between the needs, preferences, beliefs, and practices of our present congregation and those not yet part of UPC. The traditional theology is familiar and

works for many in our congregation – the wine skin containing the Gospel stretched as far as needed and is adequate for many. For others who have no prior church experience or carry scars from trying to be a Christ-follower with the integrity of their post-modern worldview – they need us to put the Gospel in new wine skins that can stretch, grow, and keep pace with the both-and-inclusive-everything's changing "real world" they inhabit.

The phrase, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" might be the norm for many in our congregation. For others not yet here, whom we are called to invite, their phrase might be closer to, "I'm still searching because it never worked in the first place." This is not to judge or find fault with the traditional faith but to under-score the difference in basic faith views. The gap is as wide (or wider) as that between "Jews" and "Gentiles" in the early church.

Anything that leads to an exclusive-we-have-the-only-truth

method is seen as irrelevant to those who experience and embrace people of different traditions, religions, philosophies, practices, and outlooks on a daily basis. Life is all about diversity – a diversity that was intentional from the very beginning!



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What they balk at is not God, but the way in which many Christians worship God as if they have the only way. They back away from a God who seems to care about only a small percentage of the human population on the planet, who seems all too human, and a Jesus who is unapproachable and not human enough. They stumble over reading even selected passages in the Bible literally, or interpreting them from a 2000-year-old context, and have trouble relating them to here and now.

Jesus has a universal message that will speak to all of us, that will point us in God's direction and guide us all on that journey. However, unless we put His message in new wine skins, the church will continue to decline.

I sense an inclusiveness at UPC that brings me great joy! This is such a welcoming and caring church. I truly believe that UPC is poised for growth – on so many levels! It is a privilege to be part of this journey!

Black History in the Bible

February 14th, 2019

By Rebekah Simon-Peter

Bible characters are usually portrayed as white and European, all except one of the wise men. But the spiritual history of Africa is imprinted in every book and chapter of the Bible beginning with Genesis. When God creates Adam out of the dust of the ground it contains the soil of Mesopotamia and the sun-warmed earth of Africa.

But it isn't just earth and soil that indicates African presence in the Bible. It is the people themselves.

The lands of the Bible span the continents of Africa and Asia — both home to peoples of color.

People of African descent, Asian descent and of mixed descent all lived in ancient Israel. In general, the people of Ancient Israel were probably more African than Asian and they looked it.

Consider the story of Joseph. Sold into slavery and taken down to Egypt he rises in the ranks of Pharaoh's government. While his brothers intend it for evil, God intends it for good; Joseph is able to bring his father and 11 brothers down

to Egypt to escape a devastating famine.

This means all 12 tribes of Israel and their descendants live in Africa for over 200 years until Moses leads them to freedom. They go down as 70 souls and they come back one and half million strong. Through intermarriage, African blood flows freely through their veins.

Even so, the people are called Hebrews, not Egyptians. Why? Not because of race or racism; that construct doesn't come into existence until the 1600s.



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It is because of tribe. Tribal affiliation is what matters in the ancient world. Nevertheless: In the Bible, Hebrews and Africans are one and the same people. The first Hebrews are African and many Africans are Hebrews.

Long before slave ships bring Africans to American shores, many enslaved Africans already worship the God of the Bible. In fact, I went to seminary with a student from Kenya who told me that the African tribal practices of his people were straight out of the Old Testament. They're living now like the Jews did millennia ago.

The African presence in the Bible can be traced even deeper in the Bible. Moses, "The Prince of Egypt," is born of Hebrew slaves, but is raised by Egyptians. Remember how Moses' mother and sister put him in a basket in the Nile so that Pharaoh won't find him and kill him? But Pharaoh's daughter finds him, keeps him, and raises him in the royal palace right under Pharaoh's nose. Now if Pharaoh's daughter and Moses look

all that different, it stands to reason that Pharaoh would take the baby and kill him. But he doesn't. Why? Probably because Moses fits right in: an Egyptian among Egyptians.

Moses isn't the only one who fit right in. Here's where it gets really interesting. Remember how Mary and Joseph take Jesus and flee when King Herod wants to kill him? Where do they go to hide out? Where do they go to find sanctuary? Where do they go to blend in? Egypt.

Now if Joseph, Mary and Jesus look all that different from the native Egyptians, they would never pass. But they do. They too had African blood flowing through their veins. Even Jesus. Especially Jesus.

As Dr. King so famously said, "...all life is inter-related. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Black history is biblical history. Black history is all our history.

On The Pastor's Night Stand - The Harry Potter Series

With all of the business of the Christmas season and the additional services to prepare for, there was little time for reading these past few weeks. I found myself drawn to some of my old favorites and I settled on the Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling. I try to read this series every few years, and I do the same with the Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis and The Lord of the Rings Trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien.

While these books are filled with fantasy creatures (hippogriffs, elves, talking Lions), there is something quite redemptive and almost Biblical

about them. (I do not know J.K. Rowling's religious beliefs, but I do know that both Lewis and



Tolkien were Christians and felt that their works were a way to reach folks about the great love of God and the redemptive, sacrificial love of Christ.)

If J.K. Rowling's bestselling fiction series is about anything — other than magic, friendship, and growing up, that is — Harry Potter is about redemption, and the power of the choices people make. Each of Rowling's beloved charac-

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ters, from the smallest of roles, like that of Regulus Black, to frontman Harry Potter himself, fail one another time and again, and always manage — through bravery, honesty, and Dumbledore's favorite virtue: love — to redeem themselves, and make things right with those they care about. Even Voldemort — the most nonredeemable of villains — is offered a (small) chance at redemption at the very end of the series. Sure, there was little doubt he'd refuse the opportunity, but the message was still clear:

even the most troubling of characters can be redeemed, if they finally manage to start making the right choices.

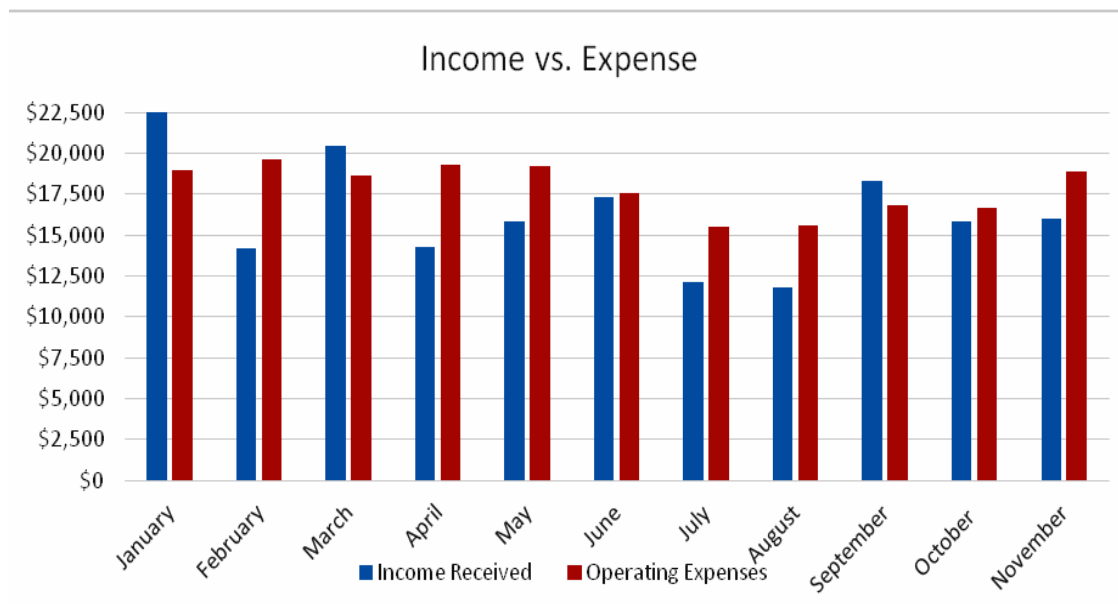
There is also the beautiful concept of sacrifice — an innocent person willing to die to save others...this is, of course, the heart of Christianity. Whether you have read these many times before, or want to for the first time, I encourage to read them through the lens of your faith and see what treasures you discover!



LOVING OURSELVES

Finance Ministry Team Update

As of November 30, income received (\$194,654) was less than operating expenses incurred (\$196,857). We have transferred money (\$6,208) from the UPC fund to cover this variance and projected variances through year end. Our expenses through November month-end are below budget (\$196,857 vs \$214,398). Please see the chart below for a comparison of income received to operating expenses by month.



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The Finance Ministry Team will continue to monitor and report income and expenses on a monthly basis and look for ways to control expenses. The 2020 budget will be presented at the congregational meeting in January.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments for the FMT, please feel free to contact its chair, Fred Hoge. You can do so in person, by phone (610-357-8464), or email (hoge kf@verizon.net). You may also contact the church treasurer, Mary

Hewes, by phone (610-347-2327) or email (hewesmb@aol.com).



Winter Fellowship



Save the date for our Annual Winter Bowling Fellowship Event! We will bowl at the Bowling Palace in

Downingtown on Sunday February 9th in the afternoon. Watch for the sign-up insert in the bulletin and come join the fun! All ages are welcome and encouraged to participate.





COMMUNITY

Pack 22 has been extremely engaged with activities over the past two months. We have been



busy with our annual Reindeer Games, den meetings, wreath sale, and our food drive that benefits The Kennett Food Cupboard.



The scouts collected over

1,000 pounds of food for the local community. The new year will also provide the Pack with more community service projects.

Next on the list is the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day at Unionville Elementary where the



Pack will help with the creation of home-made blankets for the children at Ne-

mours Alfred I duPont Hospital for Children.



Troop 22 News





LOVING GOD

Lessons for January and February 2020:

January 5 Matthew 2:7-15, 19-23
God protects Jesus' family

January 12 Matthew 3:13-17
John Baptizes Jesus

January 19 Matthew 4:18-22
Fishers of People



January 26 Matthew 4:23-5:11
You are blessed

February 2 Matthew 5:13-20
You are the Salt & Light

February 9 Matthew 6:25-33
God Cares for All

February 16 Matthew 7:1-5, 12
Specks & Logs

February 23 Matthew 7:24-29
The two Houses

Introducing Snow Lesson Sacks!

Are you traveling this winter?
Are we expecting a big snow storm and you think we'll miss church? Get a "Snow Sack" from the Nursery! Each bag

From the Desk of the DCM

contains activities related to a specific theme: Christmas, Jonah, and Moses. A bible story and the supplies for a simple craft are included. Look in the Nursery for the box of Snow Sacks and a sign out sheet. Please take one per child before your next weekend away. Remember to take and color your Flat Jesus and share a picture on



Instagram at #UPCflatjesus. Then return your Snow Sack to the "Return Box", put a check mark that you returned the Snow Sack and the supplies and activities will be refilled. Let me know what you think.

Serving Sundays:

Serving Sundays are special Sundays when children of all ages are invited to participate in the worship service with jobs including: Worship Leader, Acolyte, Greeters and Bell Toller. The children also enjoy receiving loose change in metal buckets for the "noisy offering". The "noisy offering" is donated to the UPC Samaritan fund.

Watch your email to read announcements and use the "sign up genius" to sign children for jobs. It's fun and there is something for everyone!

Serving Sunday dates:

January 26

February 23





LOVING NEIGHBORS

Serving Our Church and Our Neighbors

Dear UPC Family,

This year through your generosity, we've been able to help support the following organizations and their missions:

- *KACS
- *Family Promise of Southern Chester County
- *Rise Against Hunger
- *Good Samaritan
- *Good Neighbors
- *One Great Hour of Sharing
- *Compassion International
- *Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company
- *La Comunidad Hispana
- *New Dawn's Place - human trafficking survivors
- *Young Moms of Kennett Square

*Octorara Food Cupboard

*First Baptist Church-Narcotics Awareness

*Islamic Society of Chester County

*South Dakota Pine Ridge Native American Reservation

The Mission Committee would like to say thank you for your support in what we are doing in and through our church.



Mission Ministry Helps Those in Need



Help us help others! Contribute baked goods and purchase baked goods oth-

ers have contributed to support our Rise Against Hunger event with Bethany Presbyterian Church held at UPC on Sunday, May 17. Our next three bake sales will be held on February 2nd, March 1st, and April 5th. Indulge your sweet tooth and help to overcome hunger.



Leadership of Unionville Presbyterian Church

ELDERS

Moderator: Rev. Annalie Korengel

Clerk of Session: Sue Minarchi

DEACONS

Moderators: Judy Jackson and Edie Marson

Class of 2020

Carol Buckley

Michael King

Curt McCray

Class of 2021

Fred Hoge

J R Nelson

Brooke Wren

Class of 2020

Betty Bryer

Judy Jackson

Brian Roberts

Class of 2021

JoAnn Fisher

Marlel Holloway

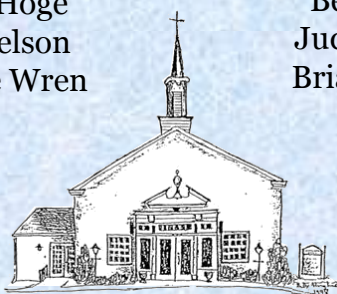
Pam Woodford

Class of 2022

Joan Deming-Murphy

Greg Permar

Barbara Roberts



Class of 2022

Edie Marson

Lillian Ryan

Karen Statz

Patty Tuel

STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Annalie Korengel

Director of Children's Ministry: Lizabeth G. Connors

Secretary: Judy Krug

Financial Secretary/ Treasurer: Mary Hewes


Director of Music Ministry: Bill Johnson

Nursery Attendant: Olivia Finkey



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 LIFE 9:30	3 AA 7:00	4
5 COMMUNION Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	6	7 Choir 7:00	8	9 LIFE 9:30	10 AA 7:00	11
12 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	13 Finance 10:00	14 Choir 7:00	15	16 LIFE 9:30	17 AA 7:00	18
19 ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	20	21 Choir 7:00	22	23 LIFE 9:30	24 AA 7:00	25
26 SERVING SUNDAY Worship/Congregational Mtg. 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	27 Session 7:00	28 Choir 7:00	29 Prayer/Praise 3:30	30 LIFE 9:30	31 AA 7:00	



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 COMMUNION Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	3	4 Choir 7:00	5 Bible Study 9:30	6 LIFE 9:30 Bible Study 7:00	7 AA 7:00	8
9 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	10 Finance 10:00	11 Choir 7:00	12 Bible Study 9:30	13 LIFE 9:30 Bible Study 7:00	14  AA 7:00	15
16 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	17	18 Choir 7:00	19 Bible Study 9:30	20 LIFE 9:30 Bible Study 7:00	21 AA 7:00	22
23 SERVING SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00	24 Session 7:00	25 Choir 7:00	26 Bible Study 9:30 Prayer/Praise 3:30 Ash Wed. Service 7:00	27 LIFE 9:30 Bible Study 7:00	28 AA 7:00	29

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Loving God and our neighbors as ourselves

