

UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

Serving God, Loving All.
February 2017



Living Into His Name

Imagine that the world is a circle, that God is the center, and that the radii are the different ways human beings live.

When those who wish to come closer to God walk towards the center of the circle, they come closer to one another at the same time as to God. - Dorotheus of Gaza (Sixth Century)

February Worship



February Sunday Worship Schedule "Living Into His Name"

During the month of February we will continue to celebrate the Connections we have in the Lord and the connections we are called to establish for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in the Greater Pittsburgh Region and beyond.

February 5th Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

Sacrament of Communion

Scripture Reading :Psalm 133

Young Disciples Time: *"Plugged in and Turned on for Jesus"*

Scripture Lesson John 17: 20-23

Morning Message *"The Name Says It All"*

Guest Speaker Dr. Sheldon Sorge, General Minister for Pittsburgh Presbytery

February 12th Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

Young Disciples Time: *"Forgiving and Forgiven"*

Scripture Lesson Matthew 5: 21-37

Morning Message *"Finding People of Peace"*

Guest Speaker Dr. Scott Hagley, Professor of Missiology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

February 19th Seventh Sunday of Epiphany

Sacrament of Communion

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23

Young Disciples Time: *"Love Your Enemies"*

Scripture Lesson Matthew 5: 38-48

Morning Message *"The Shoulds of Faith"*

February 26th The Transfiguration of the Lord

Scripture Reading Matthew 17: 1-9
Young Disciples Time: *"Lilies of the Field"*

Scripture Lesson 2 Peter 1: 16-21

Morning Message *"Connecting the Dots"*



February Saturday Evening Services

The Way Worship Service

The Way Worship Service is held every other Saturday at 5:00 p.m. It is an interactive worship service that includes several songs, a key scripture verse, an evening message presented through, video, drama, or reflective message, and spiritual activities to respond to the evening message. We hope you will try this new service that is intended to be casual, experimental, and spiritually invigorating.

The Way Worship Services @ 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel

The Way Worship Service is on the move! We will now gather in the Chapel for our innovative and interactive worship service. "Pop in" and bring a friend before you go out for a Saturday evening.

Saturday, February 11th

Saturday, February 25th

Visit The Way Facebook group for more info: facebook.com/groups/thewayworshipservice

Events and Announcements



Look At Us Now!

On Monday, January 16th the Council chose the new name for our congregation, Unity Presbyterian Church. We revealed the name during the worship service on Sunday, January 22nd. This marks a new phase of ministry and mission for our congregation as we fulfill our vision statement, "Serving God, Loving All" and continue to grow into our mission statement: to foster a Christian community of disciples, where everyone can experience a meaningful connection to God by:

***Worshiping God gratefully,
Exploring God's Word faithfully,
Expressing God's love actively through fellowship and service.***

The name Unity Presbyterian Church was the preferred choice of over 80% of the 130 responses we received from the choices presented to the congregation and marks the end of the initial merger process for the two former congregations. We can now focus on living into our future and furthering the gospel through enhancing the music ministry of the congregation, forming family connections, serving the community through mission, celebrating our discipleship for the Kingdom, and creating innovative ways to share the love of the Lord with others.

We will be making all the necessary name changes in the weeks and months ahead to promote this new phase of ministry and mission for the gospel at Unity Presbyterian Church. For promotional and connection purposes, we are referring to the congregation as Unity Presbyterian Church (formerly Wallace) keeping our affiliations as a P.C.U.S.A. congregation while word gets out about this new phase of congregational life. A new logo is being selected and you will see changes in the bulletin, newsletter, as well as on the website, Facebook, and other social media. Banners and change to the signage around the church facility will help mark the transition to the new name. A press release as well as articles in local publications will also spread the word about the new name. However, word of mouth and an enthusiasm of moving into the Unity of our new name is best promoted by the membership. Please share the news and look forward to participating in the continued and emerging opportunities that are a part of our congregation!



Needed! Hosts for Coffee Hour!

If you are interested in providing the snacks for Coffee Hour, following worship, please call Joan Humphrey. All you need to do is to provide light snacks, and then, of course, clean up. Coffee, juice, and supplies are provided. You'd be scheduled once every several months. Hope you're interested!

February Events

Saturday February 4th
Voces Solis
7:00pm
Unity Sanctuary

Sunday February 5th
Souper Bowl
11:30pm (after Worship)
Unity Chapel

Friday, February 10th
Unity Recital Series
Rebecca Belczyk, Soprano
12:30pm
Unity Sanctuary

Friday, February 17th
Movie Night
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Sunday, February 19th
PRISM Dinner
4:00pm
Carpool from Unity Parking Lot

Wednesday, February 22nd
Dinner for a Dollar Wednesdays
Baptism Party
6:00 - 7:30pm
Fellowship Hall

Pastor's Corner



"Living Into His Name"

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that God is the center,
and that the radii are the different ways human beings live.*

When those who wish to come closer to God walk towards the center of the circle, they come closer to one another at the same time as to God.

- Dorotheus of Gaza (Sixth Century)

By now, I am sure word is spreading about our new congregational name, "Unity Presbyterian Church". I hope the illustration above will serve as a guide to how we can give identity to the unity we want to express for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. This also reminds us that the focus should not be on us, rather on the One who has called us as disciples. As we grow closer in our Service to God we come to Love All, as our vision statement proclaims.

On the Sunday that we revealed the name, I spoke about the name being symbolic of the region that has been assigned to us by God for the sake of the gospel, The Greater Pittsburgh Region. The region is marked by the convergence of two rivers, the Monongahela and the Allegheny, that merge at the Point to become the mighty Ohio. These Trinitarian waters

should be a reminder of how two congregations (Dormont and Wallace) merged together to become our current congregation of Unity. Once the two become one, you can no longer distinguish which waters came from which river, and the emerging flow of water moves towards the future. So it is with our new Unity as one in the Lord!

The waters also serve as a reminder of what the church should look like. The church is not the building. The church is not an institution. The church is a movement. A movement about sharing the desire to love God with all our heart, mind, strength, and soul, and in so doing love one another as the Lord first loved us.

The world we live in the midst of is constantly moving and shifting. As one author describes it, "We live in a VUCA world, Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous. Therefore, the church must learn how to be adaptable, agile, seeking clarity and understanding, listening to diverse voices, while focusing on core values and centering principles." No easy task, yet one we are called to engage in as disciples of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Indeed, the Lord has shown us the Way to accomplish this task by modeling these abilities for his disciples. He also modeled a manner of conversation that we should practice among ourselves and with others as we grow into the Unity that we should demonstrate for others.

First, he used the table as a place of conversation to connect people and create true community. Second, he used the art of conversation to build communities of understanding. As Beth Richardson states, "We cannot survive without communities and conversation is at the heart of these

relationships. When our conversation becomes polarized, as it is in our world today, our communities are shaken, our fragile relationships are endangered. Our thoughts, our rhetoric, our conversations are filled with blaming rather than understanding, with hatred and fear rather than trust and love."

It begins with presence. Being present with God and with one another. As we sit in the presence of God, and share the prayers of our heart, the tears of our brokenness, and listen, we learn how to be present to others. I encourage you to sit in the presence of each other, whether in worship or fellowship, meeting or gathering, at a social event or engaged in a mission of service, and honor the space as sacred; "for where two or three are gathered, the Lord is there." Let us recognize the beloved in each person, whether we agree or disagree, and listen to the silence between the words, expecting God's presence there in the silence. Perhaps we can take a Sabbath from the easy communications of texts and posts, emails and tweets, and be fully present to one another. In so doing, we may grow closer to not only God but to each other in the Unity of the Body of Christ. May it be so.

Peace and Blessed Be,

Pastor Dennis

Pastor Dennis Molnar is away for a few weeks for a time of restoration, preparation, and visitation. He will be spending time preparing for the upcoming Lenten Season, and visiting with many of our members who are in the South for a few months. If you have a pastoral need, please contact the Church Office at 412-561-2431, or the Clerk of Council, Pam Frost, at 412-279-1473.

Events and Announcements



VOCES SOLIS



The local a capella vocal ensemble, Voces Solis, will perform here this Saturday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Voces Solis is a top-notch chamber choir, composed of professional musicians, music directors, and experienced choristers. They will be presenting their Winter concert, "Despite the Snow: Music for Midwinter." We are the first of 3 locations in the Pittsburgh area to receive this blessing. Join us for this wonderful concert, with reception to follow! There is no cost for admission, but we will be including a free-will offering.

Please invite everyone you know who are interested in choral music to our concert on Saturday, Feb. 4th. This would include prior choir directors, people who sang with you in High School or college, neighbors who sing in a choir or ensemble. The concert by Voces Solis, is NOT to be missed! This is an opportunity to connect with our neighborhoods and fellow churches. Go out to dinner then come enjoy an evening of gorgeous choral music!!!! See you there!



Events & Announcements



Friday Family Movie Nights:

A series of movies for children, families, and adults will be shared **every third Friday evening**. The movie series will run through May of 2017. We will hold two separate screenings - one for children and one for adults.

PARENTS this is an excellent "date night" opportunity, whether you decide to join us for the mature-minded film, or **venture out on the town!**

Either way, we will entertain the kids for free. Each film selected will be faith-based and inspirational. Activities, snacks and refreshments during and after the movies will be provided. We encourage the entire family to be participate, but as stated, parents or guardians can also drop off children for the few hours, and spend some time outside of the church. Last month we had to cancel due to lack of participation, so please help support this convenient occasion to rest, relax, have fun and participate in Fellowship. Let's help make it a permanent event at Unity!

The first screening for adults will be the 2016 release of the Lakota Sioux feature film entitled **Neither Wolf nor Dog**, and the children will enjoy **Finding Dory**.



Pittsburgh Music Academy Coming to Unity Presbyterian Church

We are pleased to announce that the Pittsburgh Music Academy will be taking up permanent residence in our facilities during the second half of February and into March. This will not only provide a new source of revenue for our facility, but also an influx of developing musicians and their families who will experience the hospitality of our congregation. We are already looking forward to new recital opportunities and the music enhancement possibilities. The community will continue to discover what a wonderful venue our facility offers, how our music program is expanding, and how important faith and music are to the congregation. Please welcome the students and teachers of the Pittsburgh Music Academy as you see them coming and moving throughout the facility in the weeks ahead.



PRISM Dinner, Sunday, February 19: We will be preparing and serving a meal for the international students that attend the universities and colleges in the Oakland area of Pittsburgh. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide a good meal, share conversation around table, exchange information about faith perspectives, and enjoy the company of people from around the world. We will provide the hospitality of the table at the Bellefield Presbyterian Church for the evening. Please contact Chris Franceschina, Pastor Dennis, or the Church Office to join us.

Events & Announcements



Caregivers For Our Aging Population

Dinner & Fellowship for a \$1.00 Wednesdays: Gather from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for a simple meal and some enjoyable activities beginning Wednesday, February 22nd. A meal of spaghetti and meatballs will be offered along with interactive games, creative activities, laughter and discipleship discoveries. Each dinner will have its own theme, and focus on our fellowship and dining each week. February's theme is a Baptism party. We will participate in water activities and share baptism remembrance stories.

Unity Presbyterian Church will have a presence in an upcoming WQED documentary! The program addresses the challenges aging seniors and their caregivers face due to the lack of resources available to support them. Parts of the production were filmed at Unity last November during Michelle Muth's Pittsburgh Sings program for Parkinsons patients and their families. The documentary is set to air on February 9th at 8 PM. Here is a link to this program on the WQED website –

<http://www.wqed.org/caregivers>.

Stewardship Snapshot

From the annual meeting and previous financial reports over the last year, we should all understand that for our new church to be successful, we must meet our financial goals. The following table summarizes envelope giving for the first four weeks of the year.

DATE	ENVELOPE GIVING	BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
January 1	\$2,851	\$5192	55
January 8	\$9,754	\$5192	188
January 15	\$5,968	\$5192	115
January 22	\$2, 845	\$5192	55
Year-to-Date	\$21,418	\$20,768	103

Although there has been a lot of variation from week to week, we are on-target to meet the income budget at the present time. Keep up the good work.

When we are truly successful, envelope giving should be able to pay our entire operating expenses. All in excess could be used to expand the ministry and mission of the church. We must continue to direct our attention to the future.

Stewardship Snapshot



The Stewardship of Blessing

Neill Memorial Fund – A Living Legacy and Example of Christian Charity

As a member of the former Wallace and Dormont Churches, you're probably aware of the Neill Memorial Fund, and that this Fund has greatly benefitted our church membership. What you may not know is, how the Neill Memorial Fund was initiated, and who initiated it.

Helen Neill (1899-1992), a single woman, was an active member of the Dormont Presbyterian Church for 48 years. It is reported that Helen had perfect church attendance. Helen was a school teacher by profession, specializing in Home Economics at the Kelton Elementary School in Dormont. Helen arranged to have both girls and boys gain experience in both Home Economics and Shop, by having them swap classes. This was a progressive idea in her time. Helen applied her teaching skills at Dormont Presbyterian Church, teaching kindergarten there for many years.

Helen's nephew, William Neill, was adopted by Helen. Other family wanted to institutionalize William as they deemed him incapable of taking care of himself. Helen took William under her wing, and cared for him at her home. Like his aunt, William participated in the Dormont church as well, as a member of the choir. Throughout her life, it was observed that Helen lived a frugal lifestyle. As a result, Helen was able to financially provide for her nephew.

At the time Helen passed away, years after she first adopted her nephew, William was able to perform certain jobs and live independently. Helen had arranged for a lawyer to oversee William's financial needs. The lawyer's son took over this duty when his father became unable to do so. At the time of William's death, the lawyer discovered the value of the estate left by Helen and William, and the financial legacy Helen had arranged to leave to her church.

The Neill Memorial Fund was established in the year 2000 in accordance with the bequests, and from the estates of William Neill and Helen Neill. The Fund was created to aid in the education of members of the church, studying for the ministry, or for the medical profession. The Fund applies to a wide range of educational opportunities. Today, the Neill Memorial Fund continues to help the members of the church, in accordance with Helen's wishes.

We're very blessed Helen thought to remember her church in her will. Helen's kindness and compassion will always be remembered. It is truly a living legacy, a gift that keeps on giving.



God is Good!

We want to express our gratitude to all who responded to the Matching Grant Challenge during the close of 2016.

Thanks to your additional giving we received over \$14,000 to combine with the \$15,885 gift to close the deficit by a total of \$30,000.

Stewardship Reminder

PLEDGE

If you haven't returned your pledge card to the church, please fill it out, and return it to the Church Office, or place it in the offering plate during worship. Thanks to all who have made their pledge. If you have turned in your pledge, please be vigilant, and keep up with your pledged giving. Remember that you can change your pledge at any time by contacting the Church Office.

PER CAPITA

The Per Capita apportionment is \$35.00 this year. Unity Presbyterian will pay the appropriate amount for all current members. This money is used to fund our form of church government, including the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. If you don't pay your "dues," money must be taken from operating funds. This reduces the amount of money available to fund the missions of our church. If you haven't paid your Per Capita yet, please do so as soon as you are able. Thanks to everyone who has already paid his/her Per Capita.

Youth Ministry



Sunday, February 5, is Scout Sunday. This celebrates the birthday of Boy Scouts, which began in 1910. All Boy Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to wear their uniforms to church on Scout Sunday. It is a reminder of the 12th Point of the Scout Law, "A Scout is Reverent."



SOUPER BOWL
SUNDAY, February 5th

"Souper" Bowl Sunday! Please support the youth next Sunday following worship at their Souper Bowl fund raiser for the hungry. Several kinds of homemade soup, salad, rolls and beverage will be available, along with a bake sale sponsored by the Intermediate Class to benefit Heifer International.

The next hosting of the Family Promise program by SS. Simon & Jude Parish is the week of May 14 (Sunday through Saturday). The church will again be providing a meal and overnight housing to several homeless families during that week. We are looking to support that effort by providing a few volunteers on one of the seven evenings, to either prepare and serve dinner, run after-dinner activities for the children, or stay overnight in private accommodations. Please prayerfully consider donating your time to this local mission opportunity that is right in our own backyard! For more information, contact Pam Frost."

Winter / Spring Calender Disciple Zone and Youth Classes

Sunday February 5: "Souper Bowl" Fund Raiser for the Hungry and Intermediate class bake sale for Heifer International

Sunday February 19: Ronald McDonald House-Cooking Breakfast for Residents (H.S. & Confirmation Class)

Wednesday February 22: Dollar Dinner Night "Baptism Party" for everyone!

Sunday February 26: Pretzel Day!! -during education hour

Wednesday March 1: Ash Wednesday; Evening Service

Every Wednesday in March: Dollar Dinner Night- "Spiritual Practices"

Friday March 17: Movie Night-movie to be announced

Friday-Sunday March 17-19: Confirmation Retreat (H.S. & Confirmation Class)

Sunday March 19: High School class only: Ronald McDonald House

Wednesday April 5: Dollar Dinner Night

Sunday April 9: Palm Sunday; Children's Processional

Sunday April 16: Easter Sunday! Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, H.S. & Confirmation class helps with children's festivities

Friday April 21: Movie Night

Saturday April 22: Sleep Out for Homeless Teens through Covenant House (H.S. & Confirmation Class)

Sunday April 30: Confirmation Sunday and Teen Lead Worship Service

****Dates to be determined:** Disciple Zone singing in worship and other worship participation opportunities, Fishing Trip, Help Sean with old Youth Zone, and High School and Confirmation Class possible light house work for homebound members.

Music Ministry



February Musings for your enjoyment and familiarity!

February 5th *Longing for Light (CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT)* is a hymn that we will use repeatedly this coming year. In the past, the choir sang it; however, now we will sing it as a congregation in Epiphany, Lent and Advent!

The stanzas are about giving, and the refrain is needed in each case to help identify who the "you" is in the song. Several biblical passages are referenced in this hymn: Matthew, Peter, John, Matthew, and Luke. The refrain is based on light imagery, making it perfect for the season of Epiphany. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJq3bhdgQoc>

February 12th *Forgive Our Sins (DETROIT)* was written by the author after weeding a long-neglected garden of weeds amongst beautiful flowers. She realized during that time that deep roots obstructing the growth of the flowers near them, made her consider how bitterness and resentment can become entrenched and destroy all joy and peace. The only hope is, by God's grace, to learn to forgive. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TamXYvf4M_M

February 19th *Let Us Build a House (ALL ARE WELCOME)* is a wordy hymn, chucked-full of phenomenal imagery. The five stanzas refer to the actions that happen as we worship: we Gather, we hear the Word, we meet at the Table and we are Sent to share God's Word; hence we have COMMUNITY. We are called to build a SPIRITUAL HOUSE fit for ALL people. Jesus' parable about houses built on a rock or on sand is powerful imagery. ENJOY! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3Pb77ylz_Q

February 26th *Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud (ABERYSTWYTH)* would fall into that category of "something borrowed.....". Oftimes in making music, we borrow an old familiar tune, but put new words to it...giving it a new, fresh "feel". Much imagery appears here, giving the mind the opportunity to find metaphors and phrases that call to one's heart. This Welsh tune has poetry that celebrates diversity as a God-given gift. Obvious for it's Trinitarian feel, we celebrate the First, Second and Third Person of the Trinity.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY, 10 • 12:30PM

Beckie Belczyk,
SOPRANO

We are blessed to have Becki Belczyk, headline our Friday Concert Series in February! Beckie is an accomplished Soprano who has performed in the Pittsburgh Opera and at the progressive Quantum Theatre. Come experience her phenomenal singing of inspirational Christian hymns in the Unity Sanctuary, Friday, February 10, at 12:30pm. Bring your friends and some Kleenex!



Birthday Fund 2017:

Raise the Roof!



The Birthday Fund is an opportunity to give back for the blessing of life, and to help us save for a rainy day! This year again the focus of the birthday fund will be "Raising the Roof!" During your birthday month, we ask that you consider giving one dollar for each year of your age in celebration of your years. But it is not limited to those celebrating a birthday during any given month - not at all! Do you see a name of a dear friend on the list below, or someone who has inspired you in your faith journey? Make a gift in honor of his or her birthday.

Gifts can be submitted on Sundays, using the blue envelopes located in the sanctuary pews (please indicate "Birthday Fund" on your check or envelope), or submitted at any time in person or through the mail - simply complete the form below with your info, and return it to the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF THOSE BORN IN FEBRUARY!

2/2 Paul Moessinger
2/3 Frederick Eichenmiller
2/4 Robert Fallgren
Ruth Marrone
2/5 Jeffrey Sterling
2/8 Annali Criswell
2/9 Jim Hicken
2/10 Patrick Wherry
2/11 Marsha Ruddy-Lund

2/12 Ashley Lind
2/15 Brendan Jamison
William (Bill) Thomas
Natalee Tortorella
2/17 Ardie Vernacchio
2/19 Rich Petro
2/21 Mardee Keppel
2/24 Daniel Schultz
Julius Stevenson
2/25 David Luedemann
Kathy Buzilow

2/25 Hannah Reiger
2/27 Charles Lindsay
2/28 Kay Palmer
Don Scorzafave
Drew Ehrhart

We'd like to wish a very special Happy Birthday to David Luedemann. He will be celebrating his 101st birthday on the 25th!!!

Yes, I am grateful for the blessing of life, and am happy to be a part of the Birthday Fund!

Name: _____

Gift Amount: _____

This is a:

_____ Gift for my birthday month

_____ Gift in honor of the birthday of:



Unity Newsletter
"Serving God, loving all."

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