



United Presbyterian Church In Ingram

Worship

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing!” (Psalm 100:2).

When I was a kid I wanted to build a clubhouse for myself. So, I took some of the scrap wood that had been left behind in my yard from a construction project and I went at it. I picked up the pieces of plywood and tried, as best as I could, to cut them to size. And, then, I stood them up to hammer them together in order to make my walls. But, they would not stay up. So, I placed them on some pieces of wood and covered them with another piece of plywood, thinking that if I had a floor and ceiling my walls would become more stable. But, still, they fell to the ground. You see, I did not know how to build a clubhouse. I had no skill in constructing a shelter from wood and nails. But, more significantly, I did not know that I first needed a frame upon which I could attach everything else. And, because of that lack of internal structure my clubhouse would not stay up no matter how many nails I drove into that wood.

You know, we often try to construct our lives in much the same way. We get a vision of the good life for ourselves, and then we go about setting it up. We put into place certain relationships. We go after particular kinds of jobs. We seek after certain levels of income. We pursue particular enjoyments and activities. And, we try to keep all these things together as if we are trying to nail together the four walls of a house to shelter our good life. And, yet, something just doesn't seem right. It seems that we are exerting way too much effort just to keep the walls of our lives upright. But, you know, maybe that is because we have forgotten something in the construction of that life. Maybe we have forgotten to build the frame upon which the rest of our lives should hang - that is maybe we have forgotten the importance of worship in our lives.

You see, the worship of God is the frame that holds life together. And, it does this by bringing us into a community called together by Jesus Christ so that we might sing and pray and hear God's word and share in his sacraments. In his book *“A Long Obedience in the Same Direction”* the author, Eugene Peterson, asks the question, “Why is it that we never find a Christian life without, in the background somewhere, an act of worship, never find Christian communities without also finding Christian worship?” It is a good question, for it reminds us of the central the role worship plays in our faith. It draws us into the larger family of God. And, in doing that, it changes everything else. And, while Sunday mornings during the 11 o'clock hour at the United Presbyterian Church in Ingram is certainly not the prescribed time and place of worship in the Bible, it is our opportunity to gather together in the name of Jesus Christ to worship our God. For, when else will we purposefully sing praises to God with other voices? When else will we pray in the name of Jesus Christ with someone else? When else will we encounter the Spirit of God as we break and share the bread? When else will we gather together with our brothers and sisters in the name of the Lord? The truth is that rarely - if ever - will we do these things unless we commit to doing them together on a regular basis.

Friends, the author to the letter of Hebrews writes, “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:24-25). So, brothers and sisters, I encourage you to hear this word and worship God together!

Peace,
Peace, Pastor Aaron

Church Gathering Update

Thoughts and Direction from our Church Gathering on April 30

After church on April 30th, we gathered together to share a meal and some conversation. The Rev. Ayana Teter, Associate Minister of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, led us through some thoughtful questions so that we might discover more about who we are and what God is calling us to become and do. Here are some important points that we were able to discern:

What are the essentials to church regardless of the changing context?

- The hearing and sharing of God's word, the fellowship of believers, the sacraments, and prayer.

When was a time that you felt the most engaged, alive, and committed in the church?

- Participants gave numerous examples, but we were able to sum up our answer in this way - "When we have done more than just show up (i.e. when we have been personally involved in the work of the church)."

At this church what has contributed the most to your spiritual life?

- Ministries like worship band, children's ministries, Bible study, the relationships, and when we have had the courage to tell others about our faith and invite them to church.

When were you the most proud of your association with this church?

- Several moments were mentioned: Movie night, Real Food and children's ministry, our addiction awareness efforts, when we have engaged other cultures through the sharing of food, when we have welcomed guests. All of this was summed up with - "When we have created a sacred/welcoming space for people to gather together and become community."

What are we doing when we are at our best?

- When we are engaging the community and serving God by helping the needy.

After these questions, we discussed what we were passionate about as a church and then to whom we were being called. In other words, we started to get specific as to what God might be calling us to do in this time and place. Here are our thoughts:

- ***We are passionate about making sacred/welcoming spaces that share God's love so that others can gather together and become community. And, we are being called to share this with the poor (i.e. financially poor, poor in health, in emotion, or in spirit), those struggling with addiction, and the children (and their families) of this area.***

When we gather together again, we will discuss how to bring this work about. In other words, we will make a plan and discuss the who, what, when, where, and how of doing some of this work. We will hope to see you there!

Community Happenings

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

PBT created the Youth Scholarship program to make the company, school – and art of ballet – accessible to students and families throughout the greater Pittsburgh community.

Established in 2013 by PBT School and the PBT Education team, the annual program works to expose children to dance at an early age and provide need-based scholarships for young students with talent and drive. Scholarships focus on students from ages 5 to 8 – a pivotal stage to begin ballet training. PBT has awarded 29 scholarships to young dancers since the program's inception. Auditions are August 5th 1pm – 2:30pm at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Studios, 2900 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

For more information visit their website at:

<https://www.pbt.org/pbt-school/information/youth-scholarship-program/>



The Ladies Aid will be holding a Craft & Vendor Fair Saturday, May 20th from 9am -2pm.

Bike Blessing

Free Motorcycle Blessing
Carnegie Presbyterian
Church, 219 Ewing Rd

Saturday, May 13th- 11am

www.cpcriders.org

Crafton United Presbyterian Church Presents
ICTUS

(Ingram, Crafton, Thornburg United In Song)

Saturday, June 3rd

7pm

Come hear the music of Irving Berlin, John Rutter, Pete Seeger, Stephen Sondheim, Neil Diamond, and much more. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the church's window replacement fund.

80 Bradford Avenue, Crafton, PA

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

Church Happenings

VBS – Save the date

Connecting Through Christ

June 12th – June 15th 2017 from 6pm – 8:30pm
We will once again be partnering with Crestfield Camp for our VBS. June 14th will be a day trip to Crestfield Camp. We hope to see you here!



Youth Sunday & Sunday School Celebration

June 4th will be the last day of Sunday School

The youth will help lead the church in worship at 11am.

"ALLOW THE CHILDREN" FUNDRAISER



The Sunday School Children are still working on fundraising to sponsor TWO children from Nepal through "Allow the Children". The kids are very excited about being able to help these children. However, they will need your help to raise the money to sponsor them. They are selling Pepperoni rolls for \$2 each. Our goal is to sell 400 rolls!!

The **deadline** for orders will be **Sunday, June 18th**. They will be delivered **Thursday, June 29th** (just in time for the 4th of July weekend!). Thank you for your support!!

Please see Bethany Myers or contact the church office 412-921-2323 or upchurchingram@outlook.com to place your order.

Crestfield Camp

If you are looking for a camp adventure for your child this summer then please consider Crestfield Camp. During their stay, campers will experience the numerous activities that camp has to offer; all in the intentionally Christian community of Crestfield. Canoeing, archery, swimming, crafts, climbing wall and more are intertwined with relevant Bible study and worship EVERYDAY to nurture campers in their relationship with Christ. Visit www.crestfieldcc.org for all summer camps available. Pastor Aaron will be the camp Chaplain throughout the week of July 16-21.

Thank You for your Support!!

The Sunday School Children would like to thank you for your support in purchasing pies for the "Allow the Children" fundraiser. They raised \$455!!!

Please check the bulletin board in the entry way for Greeter, Worship Assistant, Usher and Nursery assignments. We are still looking for volunteers for Nursery Helpers.

Our Members

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Marian & Larry Phillips– 14th



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Ayana & Aaron Teter – 4th
Jennifer & John Glozzer – 19th

MAY BIRTHDAYS

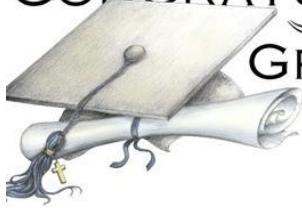
Jane Lubic– 3rd
Dolores Gorman – 7th
Peggy Magee – 7th
Pam Auman – 8th
Abigail Johnston– 10th
Chris Szuminsky – 11th
Debralee Kellogg – 11th
Tyler Smith – 14th
Zachary Smith – 14th
Rev. Aaron Teter – 24th
Ezra Teter – 27th
Cindy Herman -28th



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Sadie Taylor– 6th
Cindy Butler – 8th
James Miley– 10th
Emma Shaw – 19th

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
GRADUATES!



Tyler Smith – Carlynton Class of 2017
Zachary Smith – Carlynton Class of 2017
Amy Yost – Brashear Class of 2017

Please continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Jerry Brandy; Bob Chisnell; Dolores Gorman; Dave Harris; John & Gloria Howe; Debbie Kellogg; Larry & Pat Morris and Sandy Nemetz; Larry Phillips.

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

The United Presbyterian Church In Ingram
30 West Prospect Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



"The Good Word"
Newsletter

May/June 2017

www.ingramupchurch.org

Worship Services

11:00 am ~ Sunday Worship Service
(Nursery available)

10:00 am ~ Sunday School – Last day
of Sunday School for the season is June
4th.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday
9:30 am ~ 2:30 pm

church office email & phone:

upchurchingram@outlook.com

412-921-2323