

# THE CHIMES

## Advent Hopes

For thousands of years God's prophets have called for peace. Visions of lions and lambs resting together, swords and arrows melted into farming tools, all nations coming together in harmonious shalom – these are the wild imaginings of people who have caught a glimpse of what God intends for Creation.

As we enter our 2nd Advent in pandemic conditions, we may feel like we've become accustomed to things like mask-wearing, social-distancing, and the multiples of precautions we take here at UPC and in our community, but these things carry with them a sense of uneasiness. We notice rising prices and the impact they have on our families. We worry about the effects of this ongoing crisis on our neighbors who have fewer resources than we do. The peace that passes all understanding seems so far off and it sometimes seems impossible to stay on the journey of hope, to hang on to a vision of God's transformation.

Yet this is what Advent is all about. When Peace on Earth, Goodwill to all, seems like nothing more than a Christmas card sentiment, we bring our yearning hearts to this season of watchfulness and waiting to find that in the midst of what might look to us like too much struggle, not enough hope, we hear the prophets cry "Behold!" and the angels sing "Glory!" Stars shine brightly in a desert sky, a mother and father look in awe at their newborn son, the Savior of the world, and the Spirit gently blows on that little ember, buried in our hearts since the beginning of time. And once again, beneath the ashes of what we thought were burned out dreams, there is a new light that shines into the deep corners of our darkest places, lighting the way for hope to be born anew in us. God is still with us. Peace in our hearts, in our homes, and peace on earth is still possible. So together, let's enter this Advent season with prophets and angels, waiting with them and gently nurturing the embers of hope burning within us until the fullness of Christ's light shines in and through us for all the world to see.

May the blessings of Advent be with us all!  
Pastor Debra

## Advent and Christmas Worship

- November 28, First Sunday of Advent - Hope: What Does It All Mean? A Hanging of the Greens Service
- December 5, Second Sunday of Advent - Peace: Where Do We Find It? (TBD)
- December 8, 7:00PM - Blue Christmas - a Service of Lament and Healing.
- December 12, Third Sunday of Advent - Joy: What Mary Actually Said (Luke 1:46b-55)
- December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love: Children's Christmas Service
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 6:30PM Family Candlelight Celebration
- December 26 - Full Christmas! Lessons and Carols Service
- January 2, Epiphany Sunday - Matthew 2:1-12

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# Worship & The Arts

Alison Meuth, Director

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..."

That song keeps ringing through my head as I walk around our church. The joy I am getting from seeing all of the greens being prepared and the artwork being touched up, is beyond words. I'm also excited about what the Worship and Arts Committee has planned for this year's Advent and Christmas season. There will be so many chances for us to gather together. So exciting!!

In preparation for the season we will be putting up a large portion of our Christmas decorations right after the service on November 21. If you are willing to assist with this task please sign up in the narthex.

This season is a wonderful time to bring friends and family to give UPC a try. There will be so many opportunities to share the hope, peace, joy, and love of the season, why not invite someone to join you at one of these events:

- The Advent season truly begins on **November 28th with our Hanging of the Greens worship service**. Pastor Debra and I have been working to create a meaningful worship experience for the entire family. We will learn about the meaning of the Advent and Christmas decorations, making a spiritual connection with the things that visually help us remember Jesus' coming. We will also be dedicating our new Advent and Christmas banners. After the service we will gather in Fellowship Hall for an extended time of fellowship, with the opportunity to visit and create. There will be different stations, including wreath-making, cookie decorating, Advent candle-making, as well as our greeting card ministry for our homebound friends.
- On **December 3 from 6 PM to 8 PM we will be hosting a Christmas walk**. Over 100 luminaries will guide us on a tour through our church where we will "discover" art pieces and musical or dramatic performances that tell the entire Christmas story. The tour ends outdoors with a living Nativity. This is another wonderful opportunity to invite friends and people who otherwise might not come to church. Following this gathering, we will reinstall our outdoor Christmas art entitled The Road to Bethlehem which will be on display throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Make sure to take a moment out of your busy day and drive through our campus.
- On **December 4 at 6PM, the Amica Choir will present a madrigal performance**. Though it won't be a full-fledged Madrigal Dinner, we are so happy to be bringing back a longstanding tradition.
- For those who find the holidays difficult, we invite you to join us on **December 8 at 7PM for our Blue Christmas service**. This will be a contemplative service with music and readings. We hope this will be especially meaningful for those who might be grieving or otherwise struggling this Christmas season.
- **December 12** is a big day for us, too! Before the service, beginning at 9:30AM, our pianist, Sue Hulin will perform a Christmas concert. This is a wonderful opportunity to come early to service and spend some time in reflection. Then after worship, we will gather in the narthex to go Christmas caroling at Proctor, Buehler, and Independence Village. We will divide folks into 3 groups and carpool to the residences so we can bring some UPC Christmas to our church family in those places. This is something the whole family can do! (Masked, of course!) Contact the Church Office if you would be willing to drive.
- On **December 19**, our children and youth will take over the service. They've been preparing songs and will lead us in a Christmas reflection. You won't want to miss this!
- We are delighted to be back in person on **Christmas Eve**. We will have a candlelight service at 6:30PM. I'll be reaching out for readers as we are trying to involve our whole church family in this service.
- We finish the season on **December 26 with a service of lessons and carols**. Plan to come to worship and stay because there will be a special surprise "gift" from our UPC staff.

As I'm writing this article there is a huge smile on my face. We did our best last year to create a worshipful season while being apart. However, nothing can replace the connection we have with one another and the beauty that is created when we come together to worship God in this space. I can't wait to see each and everyone of you and to be able to declare a Merry Christmas to you, in person this year.

# Spiritual Formation

## For Children & Youth

- **NEW!!! Worship Bags and Streamers** are waiting for our younger worshipers. We've brought back our children's area in the Narthex and have prepared worship bags to help kids connect to themes in worship. You'll find a children's bulletin and other activities to keep hands and minds busy. Colorful streamers are available and we encourage kids to use them during music or any time they feel like saying Alleluia!!
- **Follow Me!** Our multi-age Sunday School is rolling along. On 2nd-4th (or 5th) Sunday, kids gather in Room 105 just off Fellowship Hall. On nicer Sundays, they may go outside, so please bring your child with warm, weather-appropriate clothes and shoes/boots.
- **First Sundays in the Sanctuary** - This is our opportunity to worship with our whole community. Children stay with families in the sanctuary so that we can all come to the Communion Table together. Of course, children are welcome in the sanctuary any time, for any service. We continue to work to make our services accessible for all ages and abilities.



## December Spiritual Formation Opportunities for Adults

Join a fellowship or study group this month to ground your faith in scripture and connect with others as we seek to follow Jesus more closely.

- Adult Sunday School is taking up Matthew's gospel **every Sunday at 9AM in Room 105**.
- Bible Study with Pastor Debra continues with John's Gospel with an eye toward January when we will take up the other writings of John - the letters and Revelation. We meet on **Thursdays at 10:00AM in Room 105** and on Zoom.
- The last of our "It's Not Too Early" series - "Cycles of Grief and Grieving" will be held after worship on December 5 in Room 100. Join us for a panel of friends who will share a little about their grief journey and a discussion of helpful tools, activities, and processes for moving through times of grief.

## Keeping Our Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults Safe

**Training for our Child and Youth Safety Policy is coming up on Wednesday, December 1** via Zoom. Watch your email for a Zoom registration link. If you will be working with children in any way, whether it's helping out at VBS or Sunday School or volunteering to drive young people to an off campus event, you will need to participate in one of the sessions. The December training will be recorded and available for folks to watch at a later date. We are also beginning the process of background checks for all those working directly with children in a classroom setting. If you already have a background check from your job, don't forget to bring/send that in to the office so we can put it in the locked Safety Policy file in the office.

This policy was approved by Session in July 2021 and includes an expanded focus beyond children and youth to include vulnerable adults defined by the State of Illinois as any person over age 60 and adults with disabilities ages 18-59. Key features include:

- Requirements for training of the congregation, staff and volunteers
- Requirements for background checks for all staff and volunteers
- Identifying processes for maintaining the privacy of families, staff and volunteers while tracking and storing required information.

Watch for an upcoming congregational information session to find out more. For more information, feel free to contact one of the special committee members. To learn more about the priorities of our denomination for safety, check out this website: <https://bit.ly/PCUSAchildyouthsafety>

# Faith Community Nurse News

## Reaching Out to Others

*The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*  
Matthew 25:40

In the past two years it has become increasingly important to reach out to others. As we near the holiday season, let us remain mindful of the importance of a kind gesture, call, email, text, or visit to another. While there are many ways to reach out, the following offers some specific acts of kindness.

1. Be observant of the signs of loneliness. Look for those people who might not actively seek but may benefit from a friendly welcome, conversation, or kind gesture. This is especially important with visitors or new members in the church.
2. Be kind and positive with others. Smile and greet people when you are out and about.
3. Give of your time whether it be a visit, a telephone call; or helping someone with errands, appointments, or other aspects of daily living. Consider volunteering in your community.
4. Remember the importance of a simple check-in with people. An email or text can make someone's day.
5. Offer your skills to someone in need. This may be as simple as helping with a household repair or maintenance.
6. Send a note or card just to let someone know you are thinking about them.
7. Open your home for meals or visits.

(adapted from: <https://bustedhalo.com/life-culture/seven-thoughtful-ways-to-reach-out-to-others-this-year>)

## COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Scheduled

The Illinois Department of Public Health is partnering with us to bring a free vaccine clinic to our church on Saturday, December 11 from 9AM to 1PM. Here are the details:

**Who's eligible?** All vaccines and vaccine options will be available for age 12 and up. The health department is focusing on public schools for outreach and vaccination of children in the 5-11 age group so that age group will not be receiving vaccinations at our clinic.

### Can I get a booster?

*For those who already received Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccinations:*

- You are eligible for a booster if you are: 65 years or older OR Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings OR Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions OR Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings.
- You are eligible if it has been at least 6 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination series.
- You can be "boostered" by any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States.

*For those who already received Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccination:*

- You are eligible for a booster if you are 18 years or older.
- You are eligible for a booster if it has been at least 2 months after your shot.
- You can be "boostered" by any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States.

If you have any questions at all, contact our Faith Community Nurse, Keli Briggs at [kelirn@unitedpc.org](mailto:kelirn@unitedpc.org)

# Missional Engagement

## Family Christmas Shop is back!!

For our 11th year, we are coming together to serve our community with this festive event, this year with a twist. So mark your calendars for Saturday, December 4 from 2-5PM.

Family Christmas Shop is a beloved event here at UPC, and you won't want to miss out this year. We are thrilled to be partnering with the M.O.M.S. (Moms Offering Moms Support) group at the Southside Community Center. M.O.M.S. is part of the Pathway of Hope efforts that Pastor Irene Lewis-Wembley and her community are building on the south side of Peoria. This group of women have helped identify families in need of support this holiday season and are helping us plan and coordinate the event as well. It's been so fun to start a partnership with this group, and we hope to continue the relationships being built even beyond Family Christmas Shop.

As in years past, the first way you can get involved is to take a tag from the Christmas Tree in the Narthex and shop for a Christmas gift for a child right here in Peoria. Each tag says the child's age/grade in school, their favorite color, and what they want for Christmas. Please return gifts to the narthex (big green bins labeled "Family Christmas Shop") by Nov. 21.

Also, look out for our volunteer sign-ups! The day of the event, we will need people to wrap gifts, help the children make gifts/crafts for their parents, help with the food/drink tables, work the check-in table, help parents take gifts to the car, etc. We will spell out ALL the opportunities in our volunteer email and sign-up sheets! You will also be able to sign up to volunteer at church. Look for the sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin boards. You can also call the church office.

Last but not least, we have received feedback for years that our location (where we traditionally hold the event) has posed significant logistical difficulties for our guests. A couple of years ago, we provided transportation to families using the church bus. This year, we are going to do the same.....*but in reverse!* We will be using the church bus to take our volunteers to Peace Church (1538 S. Eaton Ave., Peoria) where the event will be held. This is a good, central location for our guests on the south side of Peoria, and Peace Church is thrilled to host us and help us on the day-of the event too!

We're thrilled about these awesome new partnerships and hope you will join us in this important bridge-building effort as we share God's love with these south side neighbors!



## Christmas Joy!

During this Advent Season we are called to support the Christmas Joy Offering, to open doors for those we might not be able to meet face to face with but who need the support that our gifts provide. We support the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to open doors for them. And we support church workers and their families who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them— we open doors for them.

We thank God for being “with us” through the gift of Jesus and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need. The story of God, as we tell it, is not about a barrier, but about a gift. It's not about the separation, but about the gift of “being with.” Watch your mail for the giving envelope and please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 12, in celebration of God's perfect gift to us. Give because it brings us together, to open doors of relief and opportunity and to relationships that are part of God's story, a part of God's perfect gift to us.



# Matthew 25 Work at UPC

In November we began our conversation around the Matthew 25 Initiative of the PCUSA. We're excited about what this means for our church! Our Missional Engagement Committee members have been attending committee meetings to share information about the Initiative AND to learn from the committees about the work they're already doing to contribute to Matthew 25 Initiative's three areas of focus: congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eliminating systemic poverty. Session will be taking up the Missional Engagement Committee's motion to become a Matthew 25 congregation, so watch this space for more connecting points. In the meantime, here are some things UPC has ALREADY been doing that connect directly to the Initiative.

## Snack Pack Needs

As many of you know, every week, we provide 45+ snack packs for the weekend to help students at Northmoor Elementary who have food insecurity at home. As we've become more involved in this important ministry, we have identified several needs we're hoping you can help with:

- Volunteers (contact us to help)
- New LARGE suitcases with wheels and handles (used to deliver the packs to Northmoor). (These need to be a NEW suitcases like the ones you've seen standing in the Lobby waiting for pickup.)
- Snack Donations (please provide snacks that you would want to eat in the categories below)
  - fruit or pudding cups
  - boxed or bottled juice
  - Pop Tarts
  - NutriGrain or other granola bars
  - fruit snacks
- And, of course, monetary donations are always welcome!

We have signed up to be recipients of monetary donations from Helping Hands Ministry, which has 3 stores, including one in Peoria Heights. Helping Hands is a Resale Shop that donates proceeds from one week to various non-profits in the area. We were blessed this week to receive \$468.00 from them. They ask nothing in return, however they are always in need of donations (such as you'd donate to GoodWill) to resell. Also, they are always looking for volunteers to help in the store, either during the week that we are recipients of their profits, or any other time. They are looking for people willing to work 2-4 hours a week or 2-4 hours a month on a regular basis. They have a variety of roles, it's a fun place to work and make friends! Please consider donating your used goods and/or your time to Helping Hands Resale Shop. They are located at 1003 E. War Memorial Drive, Peoria Heights and their phone is 309-419-3366.

Pam Madden & Debbie Sullivan, Snack Pack Co-Chairs

## Anna Circle & Share the Warmth Blanket Ministry

We have been thrilled with the way the church has surrounded the Share the Warmth Blanket ministry with donations and with the many hands that help on Faith in Action Sundays and our work days. So many blankets have gone out to share the warmth of God's love to neighbors in need.

Anna Circle will be on pause for the winter months of December, January, and February. Our study of ***The Women of the Bible Speak*** will continue at 5:30PM on March 10, 2022 with "Deborah and Jael: Women of Valor."

In the meantime, we will be making final distributions of blankets in December and will not be holding a workday. Our next scheduled workday is Saturday, January 22 at 9:30AM in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions about Anna Circle or Share the Warmth, contact Kathy Nixon (309-431-3951) See you then!!

# More Matthew 25 Work

## Food on the Fourth

In Matthew 25, both the sheep and the goats asked Jesus: "When did we see you hungry?" We see Jesus in the faces of hungry Peorians and the rising cost of food, utilities and gas will make it even harder for our neighbors to survive. The Food on the 4th basket will be out on 11/28 and 12/26 but you can bring food to our pantry just inside Fellowship Hall any time you're passing through. We'll be sharing our donations with Porch Pantry (1122 N. Ellis) and St. Paul's Food Pantry (on War Memorial). Feel free to drop food off in those locations as well.

Here's a list of helpful items from Feeding America ([feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org)). Opt for low sodium and low sugar varieties wherever possible.

- Applesauce - a quick snack, fiber with vitamin C. Applesauce also keeps well on food bank shelves.
- Canned Beans - Loaded with protein and fiber, and an excellent, nutritious way to fill a hungry tummy.
- Canned Chicken - a great add-in for soups and casseroles or add it to a sandwich or cracker.
- Canned Fish (Tuna and Salmon) - adds vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids and protein.
- Canned Vegetables - Colorful, nutrient-dense and fiber-rich vegetables are always in high demand.
- Cooking Oils (Olive and Canola) - Canola and olive oils are the best choices because of their monounsaturated fats and mild flavor.
- Dried Herbs and Spices - a great help to create more tasty meals.
- Fruit (Canned or Dried) - Fruit makes excellent snacks for kids and adults and provide some nutrition and fiber.



- Granola Bars - These are quick and easy items that families can toss into lunches or eat on the go.
- Instant Mashed Potatoes - Instant potatoes last longer and require minimal tools and ingredients to whip up.
- Meals in a Box - An entire meal that's shelf-stable in one package. Look for meal kits that only need water.
- Nuts - provide protein and nutrients. Food banks have a hard time finding them due to their higher price.
- Pasta - Whole grain varieties offer more fiber and nutrition than white pasta.
- Peanut Butter - High in protein. Look for varieties that are lower in sugar.
- Rice - Quinoa and barley are also great items to donate.
- Shelf-stable and Powdered Milk - provides much-needed calcium and protein and doesn't require a fridge.
- Soup, Stews and Chili - provide a warm and filling lunch or dinner and often come complete.
- Whole Grain Cereal - makes a healthy breakfast or snack.

Here are a few items to skip:

- Food items/kits that require a lot of added ingredients not included in the kit.
- Foods that are high in saturated fats, sodium, sugar, and artificial ingredients.
- Junk food.
- Items with glass packaging, which can be broken in transit.
- Things that need can openers or special equipment (pop-top cans—whether for veggies, meat or fruit—are a plus).

Above all, when purchasing items for food banks, choose non-perishable foods that you would want to serve YOUR family and friends.

# Life at UPC

## Notes of Thanks

Dear Members, I want to thank my Deacon, Bev Ranson, and the church for my fall bag of goodies. It was like Christmas, but I wasn't expecting anything.

Love, Mary Zentgraf

UPC Family, We are so grateful for your gifts, love and support as we grow family. The bib and onesie are so adorable. Our family has felt welcomed right away. As we adjust to our new normal, we hope to all be at services together soon.

Love, The Logsdons

## Trunk or Treat Joy!!



## Prayer List

- Eunice Andrews
- Marlene Boeker
- Penny Brower
- Mary Buesing
- Bill Bunker
- Bernie Cambron
- Jennifer Danosky
- Carolyn Gnepper
- MaryEtta Hanson
- Carol Hicks
- Bill Huber
- Mary Johnson
- Michelle Johnson
- Terry Johnson
- Dwight Jones
- Debra Kutter
- John Mason
- David McDowell
- Stephanie Murray
- Naomi Nelson
- Regetta Parsons
- Hendrix Porter
- Christy & Jeff Presseau
- Projeto Amar
- Sherrol Reatherford
- Colleen Rouzer
- Rykur Rowe
- Barbara Rowell
- Larry & Sara Stotts
- Debbie Sullivan
- Jack Umdenstock
- Barbara Vale
- Parker Waldschmidt
- Jim & Pat Weinkauf
- Valerie Werner
- Richard West

*Prayers of Christian Sympathy for the family of Cleatus Moore*



# Stewardship at UPC

## Treasurer's Talk (from Les Boswell)

The leaves are changing and the air is turning crisp – so it must be annual budget time! As you all know, Giving Sunday was last month and I want to thank everyone that has already turned in their 2022 giving commitments. I can't wait to see the ways that God will put these gifts to use in 2022 and beyond. For those of you that haven't yet made a commitment or are still in prayerful consideration about your 2022 giving commitment, it is not too late! I thought I would share a few reasons why our family makes an annual commitment to UPC's ministry:

- Giving commitments enable our ministry. This is probably the most practical reason for making a commitment and it is a critical tool that allows Session to create and develop a church budget. The extent to which we will or will not be able to do things next year will largely be a function of how much is committed to support our ministry. Additionally, a budget is really a statement of faith and shows clearly our priorities and commitments. What would our budget say about UPC?
- Giving commitments drive accountability. When we make a commitment we create a system for accountability and empowerment. There is something great about making a commitment and then faithfully fulfilling that commitment. A giving commitment helps make it possible for an individual or family to be in partnership with UPC, walking alongside the church with a full, generous spirit.
- Giving commitments create identity. A giving commitment is one way of being a part of something larger than yourself. It is a way to enable UPC to be a beacon of hope and love in Peoria and the world, more fully stepping into the identity that God envisions for us. It's a show of our collective strength that can multiply the impact of just one person or family.

I am hopeful that there are going to be many more opportunity to do things as a Church family in 2022 as we continue to learn how to safely navigate COVID. Robust giving by our members will give us the freedom for UPC to have an even larger impact on ourselves and our community.

### UPC Financial Overview

(through October 31, 2021)

<b>Income</b>	\$793,500*
<b>Expenses</b>	\$800,328
<b>Grants received</b>	PPP Grant
<b>% of pledges received</b>	87%

\*Includes \$250,000 from a bequest)

### Foundation Report

(through October 31, 2021)

**Restricted Funds:** \$ 899,721.

**Unrestricted funds:** \$2,128,837

**Grants and Transfers in October:** \$8,584 was transferred from Foundation to the brokers for the quarterly management fees. No grants were requested in September or October.

**A Note from the Foundation Committee:** After another favorable investment performance in October the total Foundation balance is back above the \$3 million mark once again. As required by the UPC bylaws, the annual joint meeting between Foundation and Session was held on October 26. To assist Session in developing a budget and planning for next year, Foundation presented a summary of how funds are invested, restrictions on certain named funds and the potential availability of the undesignated funds to help expand the ministries of UPC. Of the 19 named restricted funds 7 of these have a protected balance that can never be spent and all of them can only be used for the specific purposes requested by the donors. Session was also informed that the bylaws allow a portion of the undesignated funds to be used each year and that approximately 4 to 5% of the balance could be used annually and should be sustainable over the long term. That has not been necessary in recent years due to the generosity of members that allowed paying off the mortgage and several large bequests that covered major expenses like the new parking lot and roof. God continues to bless UPC in so many ways!

*Foundation Committee: Rich Helm, chair, Tom Gramkow, Evan Hague, Sharon Lansdowne, Sandy Nott and Sean Scranton*

# Nature Connections News

## A Frosty, Frosty Fall Morn at UPC

Nature Connections, as a sub-committee of the Preschool Committee, maintains space, materials and equipment to encourage our children to be outside. Our children are healthier and happier when they are outside. On these early frosty fall mornings while many of you snuggle down with a second cup of coffee, our children are enjoying God's natural world and the changes in the seasons – up close and personal. The repurposing of the pergola has been completed with the addition of the drapes to the newly installed floor and roof. The pergola provides a dry place to sit and stay outside during hot, cold or rainy weather. It is already a popular addition for snack time, for experts to share their knowledge for project work, and for plays and activities for Sunday school. NC members have been very busy serving on the Preschool Playground Task Force, revitalizing the certified Nature Explore classroom, and doing upkeep of trails throughout the campus. A new White Oak Tree has been donated and planted in the tree house deck.

In December Nature Connections committee members will assist the preschoolers in making bird feeder ornaments for the Christmas Trees for the Birds by the northwest entrance. Families are invited to make their own edible ornaments and add them to the UPC Christmas Trees for the Birds.

In planning for next school year, they requested an additional area sheltered from sun and rain. Instead of putting up a new structure it was decided to convert our entry pergola into a covered deck. By adding side curtains, it also can be a stage for Sunday School, Bible School or small services. Richard Helm, Dave Rouzer, Don Hartshorn and Tom Harrison worked their magic and now we have a covered deck for Godly Play, drama, music and journal writing.



UPC member and UPC Discovery Teacher, Stephanie Randall and her class explore the wonderful world of frost. Another class is in the pergola having a snack, and the new playhouse can be seen in the background waiting for completion.

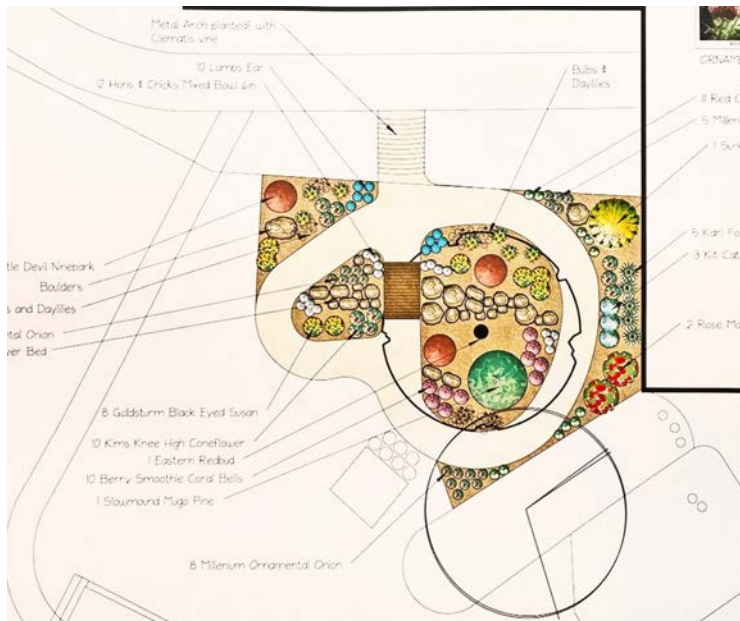


# Playground Update!

Phase One of the playground update is almost done! The kids can't wait! The tricycle trail has been installed along with a bridge, a playhouse, tree pavers and a tunnel which will be covered with plants in the spring. Before December 1st, the sod will be installed around the trike trail and the first of the landscape plantings will be added. A dry creek bed of rocks will be laid "under" the bridge and the redbud tree, a dwarf mugo pine, and some perennials will be planted. Come next spring the landscape, designed by David Knight of Greenview Nursery, will provide a variety of shrubs, flowers and plants of interest to children including hens and chicks, lambs ear, various wild flowers and bulb plants including lilies. In spring the clematis will climb the trellis to make a shady tunnel to drive through. The playhouse is ready and waiting to become "grandmother's house", a "store" or whatever the children want it to be as a stop on their ride.

The large mulch zone has been completed and one piece, a climbing rock, has been installed. All materials have been purchased by the Preschool Committee for the Gaga ball pit to be installed by the Nature Connections Committee at the south end of the play area. The Task Force has identified several signature pieces including a log slide and a clubhouse with climbing rocks that will attract school age children for Sunday School, bible school, and other events for families. The Task Force is actively looking for funders who would be willing to help purchase these exciting additions for our school-agers and which is beyond the scope of the preschool committee budget. Our play area can become a welcoming place where children and families love to gather for worship and fellowship.

Members of the Task Force and the group they represent are Judy Helm, Chair; Lora Taylor (Director); Pam Scranton (Christian Ed and Preschool Committee); Josie Johnson (Nature Connections); Nancy Jones (Nature Connections); Richard Helm (Properties); Don Hartshorn (Preschool Committee); Marijane Trotter ( Christian Ed Committee); Debbie Hanson ( Church Life Committee); Katrina Larson (Toddler teacher, staff) and Catherine Price (Preschool teacher, staff).



Greenview Plan for landscaping of the tricycle trail and sodding using a variety of flowering plants and shrubs.

The tricycle trail and playhouse ready for the dry creek bed and fall panting of the tree and sod.

# THE CHIMES

November 16, 2021

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Peoria, IL 61614-3343

Phone: 309-693-2002  
Email: [UPC@unitedpc.org](mailto:UPC@unitedpc.org)  
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## Weekly Events

### Sunday

- 9AM - Adult Sunday School (Gospel of Matthew) on Zoom & in Room 105
- 10AM - Join us in person, or on YouTube, and Facebook for Worship. Children gather on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays in Room 105 for Follow Me! Sunday School

### Tuesday

- 10AM - CoffeeTalk. Stay connected with these Zoom conversations

### Thursday

- 10AM - Bible Study (Gospel of John) with Pastor Debra

## Committees and Session Meetings

All meetings can have Zoom options. Please let the Committee Chair know in advance.

- Christian Education - 3rd Sunday at 11:15AM (Chair: Pam Scranton)
- Church Life - 1st Monday at 6:30PM (Chair: Charlotte Cronin)
- Nature Connections - 2nd Wednesday at 6:00PM (Chair: Judy Helm)
- Preschool - 2nd Wednesday at 7:00PM (Co-Chairs: Andrew Harrison and Pam Scranton)
- Properties - 1st Monday at 6:30PM (Chair: Jim Pugh)
- Missional Engagement - 1st Tuesday at 7:00PM (Shared Chair. Contact Jenna Hague or Nicole Livesey)
- Worship & Arts - 2nd Wednesday at 7:30PM (Co-Chairs: Mark Hanson and Jerry Randall)
- Human Resources - 2nd Tuesday at 6:00PM (Co-Chairs: Debbie Sullivan and Linda Kelley)
- Foundation - 2nd Tuesday at 7PM (Chair: Rich Helm)
- Stewardship & Finance - 3rd Tuesday at 7PM (Chair: Evan Hague)
- Session - 4th Tuesday at 7:00 PM

## Sign Up for Worship Welcome Teams

This is an essential role! Our Welcome Teams are the front line of hospitality for visitors and friends of UPC. Please choose one or two Sundays in the next few months to help make our worship services a warm and welcoming environment. This task can be done by people of all ages and abilities. We would love to see families with children, folks who need to sit down while greeting, and friends or groups of the church share their smiles!

Sign up here: [bit.ly/winterwelcome1](http://bit.ly/winterwelcome1)