

GOOD NEWS!

Winter 2024

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Rev. John White

Dear UPC Family,

I took this photo in Estes Chapel on the campus of Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, KY. In 2023, there was a movement of the Holy Spirit among the students at Asbury College, a movement that culminated in a kind of “revival” of sorts. Students sang their praises to the Lord, shared personal testimonies, read Scripture, prayed with and for each other. I can personally attest to the reality that the ground out there in Wilmore is holy ground, that there is a genuine seeking of the Lord at the seminary and in the college. Such was the case in 2023 at Asbury...and there was this lovely image of Jesus looking down on so many of the folks who came.

James 4:8 says, *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”* May we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, make 2024 a year in which we are more intentional than ever about drawing close to Jesus, that we make it our New Year’s resolution to seek Him with a renewed vigor and zeal.



Blessings In Him,
John

SAVE YOUR STAMPS!!

Jackie Corbit

Early in 2023, Lisa Gilbert called to ask me about reviving Kate Riker's stamp collecting activity. Our original problem was finding where to take the stamps. Lisa researched and then talked to representatives of the Henry Clay Philatelic Society who told her to save the stamps until mid-November and package them in grocery bags to deliver to the organization for weighing. We had some old stamps and some foreign stamps from a couple of donations from those who were stamp collectors, but no longer participated. Those stamps sat in a shopping bag in the church office for about 2 years! Finally, I packaged the stamps and delivered them to Lisa who took them to the organization. She called in December to tell me that we made \$171 from those stamps that were just collecting dust. I had talked with Kate Riker members about where we could donate any money earned from this activity since it was their original idea. We decided to donate to the Community Action of Mercer County to aid residents with utility bills, especially during winter months. Many of you probably contributed stamps to this effort, and we invite you to continue to save your stamps. When you tear or cut them out of the envelope, be sure to keep about a quarter inch all around the stamp which allows it to be viewed more clearly. There's a basket in the donut room where you can put your stamps or find a Kate Riker member and give them to her. This is a really easy way to attain funds for missions that do not affect our church budget. Be sure to thank Lisa for her initiative in reviving this activity and seeing it through. Save those stamps!



JOYCE'S POEM OF THANKFULNESS

*The Presbyterian Church has given me much love and content.
In praying about my changing churches, I felt it was a "God sent."
I remember walking in the door of our beautiful sanctuary that day,*

Giving me peace and comfort right away.

*We are truly blessed to have a loving place to pray,
And the gracious hospitality makes you want to stay.
We are indeed blessed with a devoted Pastor for sure,
Making our congregation feel confident and secure.*

*John, you are so articulate and smart,
When our church is over, we leave with a good feeling in our heart.*

*Being the choir director is an important place,
Selecting the right songs, hoping it will bring you grace.
Any time you would like to hear a special hymn one day,
It would be our pleasure to sing and I will play.*

Also, I want to thank our church for my Christmas gift this year.

I truly appreciate your kindness and sincere.

*It has been my pleasure to be a part of our musical group.
Also, making me practice the piano, so I can stay in the loop.*

Please consider making a "New Year's Resolution" to join our choir this year.

Instilling our choir with much happiness and cheer.

Joyce C. Sanders

Dec. 20, 2023

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Jackie Corbit

Thanks to all the willing hands who helped decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. As always, the beautiful poinsettias helped make the sanctuary glow. There were 25 poinsettias ordered in memory of or in honor of family members and friends. We were able to take a photo of the sanctuary to include in a small gift to our shut ins, and Christmas cards were signed by members of the congregation and mailed to these members of our church family whom we miss. Beverly Woodard worked to get advent families to light the candle each week. On December 17, a community carol sing was held at our church. The community choir, led by Nancy Hill, helped us sing many loved carols of the season. Joyce Sanders met each week with the faithful UPC choir to sing Introits and Anthems that centered on the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The season's highlight was the Christmas Eve service. Luminaries lined the walkway and steps into the church. The service ended with the traditional Silent Night with everyone holding a symbolic candle of hope, joy, peace and love celebrated throughout Advent and the Light of the World, Jesus, whose birth we celebrated. The worship committee appreciates everyone who participated in worship services and performed special tasks to make this special season memorable.

Jackie Corbit, chair

Beverly & Gordon Woodard

Harry Woodard

Joyce Sanders

Ron Corbit



AN HOUR OF CHRISTMAS JOY AND LOVE

Pat Rockas

The Harrodsburg Community Chorus graced us with their presence for a joyful singing of Christmas hymns and other Christmas favorites. The choir had members from various churches as were the people in the sanctuary. The group was started by Robin Ison and directed by Nancy Hill. It was such a delightful event it is hoped we can do it again next year!!!

Put on your calendar: the group will be singing June 14 or 15 as part of our 250th Celebration and again June 16th at the Old Mud Meeting House (John will be the minister). If you would like to join the group, please contact Nancy Hill – (859) 613-1903 or nah1701@yahoo.com.

So many thanks to the group for coming to our church and giving us so much joy.

CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIES



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OPEN HOUSE WITH THE CORBITS

On December 10, the congregation was once again invited to join Ron and I for the Christmas Open House. There was lots of food, twenty-eight hungry members, and much joy and laughter as we had an opportunity to spend time catching up with folks we don't always have time on Sunday to talk with. Several of you brought wonderful hostess gifts for which we thank you. However, spending time with our Christian friends always highlights the Christmas season for us. We appreciate your coming every year and wish each of you a blessed Christmas of love, peace, and joy shared with your family and friends.

Ron and Jackie



ANNUAL ADOPTED BUDGET

Stewardship and Finance Committee met in late fall to analyze spending to date for 2023 in preparation for devising the 2024 budget. In determining the amount for each item on the budget, we looked at 2023 spending to determine if the amount could be lowered or needed to be increased. After discussion among the committee, the budget you have here is the result. This budget was submitted to Session at the November meeting and was passed. It is conservative, yet will be challenging as 2023 was, since we have about 30 giving units (families or individuals). Please pray that we as a church family continue to give generously so that the God's work can continue to flourish as UPC ministers in this community and through Presbytery. If you have questions, please ask one of the committee members listed below.

Jack Prewitt & Jackie Corbit, co-chairs

Pat Alexander, Gary Farthing, Doug Ferguson

2024

HOSPITALITY

Kitchen supplies	100
<u>Congregational events (4 per year)</u>	<u>400</u>
	500

MISSION & OUTREACH

Backpack Program	250
Christian Life	250
Habitat for Humanity	1000
<u>Disaster Relief</u>	<u>500</u>
	2000

ADOPTED BUDGET 2024, CONT'D

PASTOR

**Minimum Requirements by Presbytery*

Salary: 20 hours, weekly	6046
Housing	15600
Pension, Health Insurance, Disability	14664
Social security allowance (.0765 x base salary 21,646)	1656
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	37966

PERSONNEL

Custodian (20 hours per month)	2912
Employee Social Security	1200
Secretary (10-18 hours per month)	2448
Organist	5200

Christmas Gifts: Pastor	N/A	Custodian	150
Secretary	150	Organist	150
Treasurer	N/A	Pianist/Choir	150

TOTAL	12360
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PROPERTY

Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	2500
Insurance	7000
Telephone	1900
Termite	400
Gas	4100
Water	650
Electric	7500
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	24050

ADOPTED BUDGET 2024, CONT'D

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Church Office Material	150
Clerk of Session	50
Office Supplies	2500
Per Capita Apportionment (47 x39.29)	1847
Postage/Newsletter	400
Treasurer Expense	350
CDM+ program	600
Misc.	50
	5947

WORSHIP

Guest Minister	1200
Sanctuary Upkeep	500
Worship Supplies	200
	1900

TOTAL	84,723
NEEDED PER WEEK	1,630



EACH OF YOU MUST GIVE AS YOU HAVE
MADE UP YOUR MIND, NOT REGRETFULLY
OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES
A CHEERFUL GIVER.

II CORINTHIANS 9:7



ACTIONS TAKEN BY SESSION

Jackie Corbit, Clerk of the Session

STATED SESSION MEETING, OCTOBER

1. **Sandra White was approved as pulpit supply for Nov. 12.**
2. **Personnel Committee (all active session members) voted to raise the hourly secretary's salary to \$17 and the hourly custodian's salary to \$14; session approved.**
3. **Financial report for Sept. was approved as printed.**

STATED SESSION MEETING, NOVEMBER

1. **Community Carol Sing at UPC on Dec. 17, 3 PM, was approved.**
2. **Joyce Sanders was approved to be added to staff receiving monetary gift for Christmas.**
3. **October financial report was approved as printed.**
4. **Budget for 2024 was approved as presented.**
5. **Approved receiving the regular offering on Christmas Eve and deferring the Joy Offering for Presbytery to Dec. 31; special envelopes and information sheet will be included in the bulletin. Regular offering will also be taken.**

DECEMBER, NO MEETING

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Due to freezing of the electric heat in the educational wing, Sunday School met in the sanctuary, which is heated by boiler, on December 31st, 2023. Thank you to the class for your flexibility!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

October income = \$6,724.27

October expenses = \$7,404.04

\$679.77 (Amount we spent over our income in October)

Since Pat Alexander, our Treasurer, was out-of-town for Christmas, at the time of this report, we don't have the actual expenses for November and December. Be sure to check your financial report in the Annual Report to get the exact numbers. However, I am including the income for November and December so that you have an idea of what we achieved in 2023.

November income = \$6,348 (This was a four week month, so we needed \$6,304 to reach budget. As you can see, we were over by \$44.)

December income = \$10,195 (This was a five week month, so we needed \$7,880 to meet budget. We were over by \$2,315)

By adding the total amount collected to date in October (\$67,240.97) to November's income (\$6,348) and December's income (\$10,195), the total income for 2023 was \$83,783.97. Our budget for 2023 was based on \$81,975, so we exceeded it by \$1,808.97.

I hope I haven't confused you with so many numbers, but bottom line is that UPC congregation exceeded its budget for 2023! Your faithfulness in giving is remarkable. There were no huge single donations; everyone's giving whatever they felt led by God to give is what achieved this goal. Next year's budget is included in this newsletter, so you can see that it will be a bit more challenging. "Everything has gone up" is a statement our insurance representative said as I inquired about the \$2,000 more insurance will cost us next year. As you plan your giving for next year, pray for God's leadership. Whatever God leads you to give will be the right amount!

Jackie Corbit, co-chair Stewardship and Finance



BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY

**4th - Mary Baxter
17th - Mike Rockas**

FEBRUARY

**1st - Jackie Corbit
10th - Frank Mitchell
23rd - Bill Wickliffe**

MARCH

**8th - Leslie Ferguson
8th - Morgan Turner
10th - Ed Berg
26th - Jack Prewitt
31st - Elaine Dedman**
