



In Touch



THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FLANDERS, NJ 07836

Summer of Sundays

The Summer of Sundays program will begin June 26th and end September 11th. Typically the Summer of Sundays programs is a one week commitment involving a lesson and related activity with the Pre-School through 3rd grade age children of UPC.

All lesson materials are provided for you and almost all of the supplies for the activities. It is recommended that you obtain your packet ahead of time to get familiar with the topic and activity. There is a sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board. Please consider volunteering one Sunday this summer to help with the Summer of Sundays program. If you can lead one of the Sundays, can serve as the coordinator (a main role of which is confirming each Sunday has a teacher/leader in place), or have any questions, please contact Christian Education Elder Tim Clarkson at 908-707-1925 or Sunday School Director of Curriculum Beverly Brouhard at 973- 691-0841.

In this year's Summer of Sundays program, the children will learn about:

Noah

The Miracle of the Fishes and Loaves

The Lord's Prayer

Parents: Please remember that the Summer of Sundays program is for Pre-School through third grade students. Older children will remain in church. If your child is old enough to assist with the program and wishes to help the teacher with the activity, they may add their name to the sign up sheet as an assistant.

Thanks for your interest in furthering the Christian Education experience of the youth of UPC.



As of this writing (5/18) Presbyterians have been buzzing for just over a week about the passage last week of Amendment 10-A among a majority of

Presbyteries. This Amendment,

which was approved at the 2010 General Assembly and then sent around to the Presbyteries for vote, removes any specific language connecting sexuality to standards for ordination as elder, deacon or minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The language of this amendment will be added to our Book of Order and become church policy in mid-July, after all Presbyteries have voted on the matter.

Not everyone is pleased with this latest phase of our denomination's more than thirty-year battle regarding the standing of gay and lesbian people within the Presbyterian family. There will be folks in virtually every congregation, including UPC, who question this apparent "loosening" of our ordination standards. Many of a more conservative disposition may need to wrestle with whether to stay or to leave a denominational family they dearly love. Other smaller, more conservative Presbyterian bodies exist in which these churches could find a home, but most of these other bodies do not yet even ordain women as elders, deacons or ministers, which presents a challenge for those exiting from the PCUSA. Still others may try to form fellowships or coalitions within the larger church to which they will remain committed. Only time will tell.

Practically speaking, what does this new policy mean? Perhaps, most important, it does not mean individual churches or presbyteries will be forced to undertake an action they cannot in good conscience do. In other words, the language of the amendment is not restrictive. It is, rather, expansive, and that means it does open the door for a local congregation or a Presbytery to ordain a gay or lesbian candidate as elder of Ministry of the Word, if they feel that person meets the other

qualifications for ordination in their context. In other words, UPC would never be forced to ordain a homosexual person, but would not be out-of-order for doing so if the nominating committee and congregation determined it appropriate.

Amendment 10-A also marks an important step towards a more "de-centralized" denominational structure, giving both local congregations and presbyteries more flexibility and authority to ordain whom they see fit. Perhaps that move towards de-centralization reflects something of the times in which we live.

I have no doubt UPC, Flanders will continue to be the open and welcoming church family I have experienced it to be. I truly believe we mean it when we say ALL ARE WELCOME!

I leave you with a prayer concluding a pastoral letter from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Gradye Parsons and other General Assembly leaders, sent in response to the passage of Amendment 10-A:

Almighty God, we give thanks for the rich heritage of faithful witnesses to the gospel throughout the ages. We offer gratitude not only for those who have gone before us, but for General Assembly commissioners and presbyters across the church who have sought diligently to discern the mind of Christ for the church in every time and place, and especially in this present time.

May your Spirit of peace be present with us in difficult decisions, especially where relationships are strained and the future is unclear. Open our ears and our hearts to listen to and hear those with whom we differ. Most of all, we give thanks for Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who called the Church into being and who continues to call us to follow his example of loving our neighbor and working for the reconciliation of the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Rick

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

WHAT: Pandamania - where we will explore how God is wild about us!!

WHEN: August 1 - 5

TIME: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

WHERE: Here at UPC, rain or shine.



UPC members please register your children as soon as possible for this year's Vacation Bible School. We can only hold a maximum of 130 campers. We have a registration form on the church website and the public is already registering on a daily basis. We do not want

any UPC members to miss being able to attend. You can register on-line now and fill out the form when you are in church or fill out the attached form and bring with you. Don't miss out. Register as soon as possible. PandaMania "Where God is wild about you!" promises to be a wonderful week here at UPC.



"Rev. and all who worship at UPC, Flanders:

Just a note of thanks to all who made my seven years of worshipping at the church enjoyable. Thanks for your participation at my retirement party. It was a great time. A big thanks to all who made the get together after the service a success. Looking forward to seeing y'all in Florida one day. Keep in touch, John F. Walters."

A Dad is someone
you look up to no
matter how tall
you've grown!

Wisdom & Wit to live by...

- Don't let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited ... until you try to sit in their pews.
- Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.
- It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
- The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.
- When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.
- People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.
- Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
- If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.
- God Himself does not propose to judge a person until he/she is dead. So why should you?
- Some minds are like concrete...thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.
- Peace starts with a smile.



THE DEADLINE FOR THE July/August *IN TOUCH* is **June 22**

Please submit any information you want included in the July/August 2011 **In Touch** to the church office or by e-mail (UPCintouch@aol.com) on or before that date. All are welcome to contribute.

In general, each month the deadline for the **In Touch** will be the third Wednesday of the month (the Wednesday after the monthly Session meeting).

REMINDER: Next months issue will be a two month one encompassing all activities in July and August.

NOTE: Due to the fact that my family will be out of town, all articles need to be submitted by the date above. Thank you!

Annual Congregational Picnic

When: Sunday, June 26

Time: Immediately following the
10:00 AM Worship service

Cost: \$5.00 adult

Free - children 3 to 9 years

Children under 3 are free



Please fill in the reservation form insert and place it in the box in the Narthex. Checks should be made to **UPC, Flanders**. Any questions, see Karen Brand.

Confirmation Sunday

On June 6th, seventeen of our youth will become members of UPC Flanders when they are confirmed into our church. Their journey began last September and has included religious instruction, service projects, preparation for the Mother's Day Service and writing Statements of Faith. This is a special time for them, their families and the life of our church. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know them and share this joy. Since this is the largest class to be confirmed in the history of our church, this worship service will be much longer than usual. We hope you will join us for this "special" service of worship.

Help Needed: July 2, 2011

Hi folks....Barb Gunn here and I need your help. I am moving to a first floor apartment in Budd Lake from Hopatcong on Saturday, July 2nd. I am in need of some folks to help me with that, if possible. If you can lend a hand for maybe 4 hours (maybe more, maybe less..... beginning about 8am), would you please let me know so I can be sure I have enough folks to help? Lunch will be provided as well as beverages throughout. Also, anyone that can drive a stick shift U-Haul type of truck would be a very valuable asset (just in case the truck is a stick-shift!!). You can call me at 973-398-6635 or email bgfatnomore@msn.comsure hope you can help!! Thanks. Barb

What Makes A Dad



God took the strength
of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad

Author : unknown

"What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God."

- Eleanor Powell

Fun 'n' Friends

5th Annual Golf Outing Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Our 2nd Annual Charity golf outing will be held on Tuesday, June 17th at the Flanders Valley Golf Course. 12:00pm Shotgun start. Registration/Sponsorship papers can be found in the narthex. Contact Suzanne DiMonda @ 973-448-1067 or jsdimonda@aol.com.

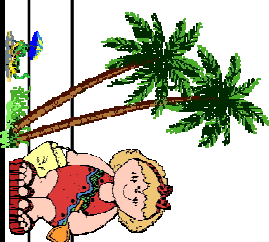
Mark your calendars!





UPC, FLANDERS

7
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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

July 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	28	31

**5 COMMUNION
TEACHER RECOGNITION**

7:30am ASP Breakfast
10:00am Worship & SS
11:30am Confirmation/
Session Lunch

6	7	8	9	10	11
	7:30pm NewSong		5:30pm Alleluia Choir 6:30pm Chancel 7:30pm Bell Choir	10:00am Women of Faith	9:00 AM 2nd Saturday

12 CONFIRMATION

10:00am Worship & SS

13

14

7:30pm NewSong



15

16

5:30pm Alleluia Choir
6:30pm Chancel
7:30pm Bell Choir

17

10:00am
Women of Faith

18

**19 MEN OF THE CHURCH
REC OF HS GRADUATES**

10:00am Worship & SS
11:15am Deacons



20

7:30pm Session
Meeting

21

7:30pm NewSong



22

IN TOUCH
DEADLINE

23

24

10:00am
Women of Faith

25

ASP Spaghetti Dinner



26

10:00am Worship & SS
11:15am All Church Picnic

27

28

29

Youth trip to
Dorney Park

30

ALL TIMES AND DATES ARE
TENTATIVE. PLEASE CONSULT
SUNDAY BULLETIN OR CALL
CHURCH OFFICE FOR DETAILS.



JUNE 2011 *In Touch*

**The United Presbyterian Church
58 Drakesdale Road
Flanders, NJ 07836**

**Phone: 973-584-8195 and 973-584-1450
Fax: 973-584-8253**

**Pastor: Rev. Rick Oppelt
Church e-mail: office@unitedpcf.com
Website: www.unitedpcf.com
In Touch e-mail: UPCintouch@aol.com**



**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
PICNIC**

Sunday, June 26, 2011

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
10AM WORSHIP SERVICE
CASUAL DRESS, LOTS OF FUN,
GOOD FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND GAMES

Adults: \$5.00

Children (3-9) Free

Fill in the reservation form below and place in the
narthex in the box labeled "Picnic"
no later than June 19th
Please include payment with the form
(checks payable to UPC)

Name _____

Phone: _____

Adults _____ # Children _____

I will bring: Salad (any kind) _____

Dessert _____

- I can help: _____ Setup Saturday, June 25, 2011
 _____ Setup Sunday
 _____ Clean-up Sunday after picnic
 _____ cooking
 _____ games

SEE KAREN BRAND WITH ANY QUESTIONS



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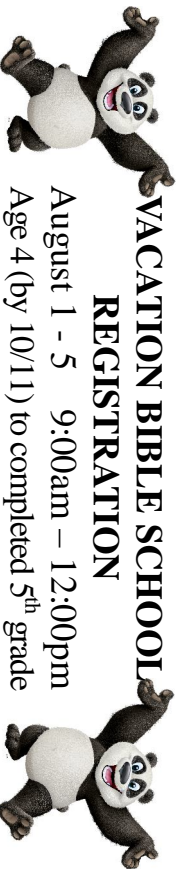
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SEE KAREN BRAND WITH ANY QUESTIONS





**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
REGISTRATION**

August 1 - 5 9:00am – 12:00pm
Age 4 (by 10/11) to completed 5th grade

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Parent's Name/s: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

& Number: _____

Allergies: _____

Birth Date: _____

Grade Completed: _____

Parents & teens....How can you help out during the week?

_____ Teaching

_____ Help with skits, games, video (1 or more days)

_____ Help preparing snacks

_____ Help with decorations (2 weeks before)

_____ Teen helper 7th grade & up

_____ Other _____

Name and the day(s) I can help: _____

(There is also a sign-up sheet in the hallway.)

There will be no fee for this Bible school class, but a donation would be much appreciated. Only as a guide, we usually spend about \$15 - \$20 per child to run this program.

OVER

Through a series of photographs taken throughout the entire week of various VBS events, the United Presbyterian Church Family can enjoy the fun and excitement experienced by our children.

We respect the privacy of all individuals, and for that reason we ask that you please complete the following photo release consent for your child(ren).

By signing this photo release consent form, I give the United Presbyterian Church of Flanders permission to use my child's photograph for publications, promotional purposes, website, media press release and coverage, bulletin boards, UPC scrapbook/photo album and other such purposes on behalf of the United Presbyterian Church.

Name of parent/guardian (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

OR

I **do not** wish to have my child's picture taken.

Name of parent/guardian (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____