

Board Walk Plus ~ August 2026

Hello Friends!

Where did July go? It doesn't seem possible that it's August, and time to begin thinking about school resuming. And speaking of school, Sunday School classes will resume on September 13th.

Please note the time change in Christian Ed on page 3.

In July we dedicated the stonework project with the unveiling of a beautiful memorial tree in the Narthex. In addition, we had special music during the service, and a lovely reception in the conference room afterward. See pages 4 and 5.

We also had a table at the Independence Day celebration at Veteran's Memorial Park for the first time. Pastor Ted speaks about it on page 2.

Please let me know if you would prefer I not print your photo in the newsletter.

As always, I appreciate everything you contribute to help make this little project informative and useful. Please continue to send me photos, stories and other tidbits to include each month. We will be featuring another *Church Family of the Month* soon. If you would us to highlight you and your family, please let me know.

You may text or call me: 607-661-2154 or send me an email: cindy.fitzwater@gmail.com if you have *anything* you'd like to see included. Thank you, and see you in church!

Faithfully yours,
Cindy Fitzwater

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible."
14th Dalai Lama

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Upcoming Events:

See calendar on page 8.



Here is Al Martell at the Coffee Hour following the dedication of the Memorial Tree in the Narthex. I told him when I took this picture I would feature him on the front page of the newsletter. I am true to my word! 😊

***Next newsletter deadline
is Friday August 28th!**

The Pastor's Pathway...

July is typically a fun month for most of us. We set up a table for the first time at the local Independence Day event. We took the place of the Erie Depot volunteers who could not do it this year and assisted kids getting on and off the train. One of the highlights of the day was a young woman sharing the good news of God's grace in her life. We enjoyed her story. People felt safe leaving their strollers and belongings with us to ride the train.

We plan to also be present for a couple of the Thursdays at the Square events this summer. As I write this, the parking lot was just paved yesterday and we are parking in the municipal lot for now. The church is taking very good care of their pastor and my driveway will be getting a makeover soon. It is always nice to see signs of renewal wherever we might get them.

It was a joy to officiate the service to dedicate the Stonework project and Legacy Tree display. We will have a reminder of those who helped make that enormous project possible for us to enjoy and for generations to come!!!

I wish to thank you all once again for calling me as your pastor. I am delighted to serve you and my family and I truly love being here. I am often reminded of the good work we do together and continue to appreciate your never-ending support serving our boards, committees, and stepping in other ways.

Yours in Faith,

Pastor Ted

Veteran's Memorial Park 7/4/2026



Thanks to everyone who donated cookies, water, soda, ice and to all those who came and spent time at the park that day. What a wonderful way to get the word out about our awesome church!



JULY BOARD WALK:

Session:

The Session met for our regular monthly meeting in July. We discussed plans for an upcoming Session Retreat. This year's retreat will be August 22nd at the Mount Saviour Monastery in Pine City. We will have an opportunity to interact with the monks.

Deacons:

While the Deacons do not meet in July and August, their work continues! Calls, cards (cookies?) and visits continue for our shut-ins. If you know someone in need, or of a situation where a call or a card could be of comfort, please contact one of the Deacons. Communion set-up for July was Ellen M and Kathy K. Dime-a-Day collection for July was \$220.87

Trustees:

Trustees have been busy working on and planning several projects. This month our parking lot was repaved and the driveway at the manse was also redone. The sink in the ladies' room has now been replaced as well. We are thankful to our Trustees for all they do for our church and manse, and us.



New sink for the ladies!



COMMITTEE CORNER:

Parish Life:

Parish Life will be hosting **Game Night** again the last Saturday of each month, beginning on September 26th from 7 – 9 PM. Please bring a game or play one that's already there, and a snack to share.

Bean Bag Baseball will be making a debut in September – it's like corn hole for seniors, but it is perfect for all ages! Throws are shorter, bags are lighter, and it is a lot of fun. More information about the game in next month's newsletter. Hope to see you there!

Christian Ed Committee:

The committee met in July to discuss Sunday School. Classes will resume on Sunday September 13th – beginning at 9:45 to 10:15AM.

Barb B will be joining Megan to teach this year. Megan will continue with the little kids and Barb will provide classes for the older youth. Hopefully everyone will invite their friends to come to our Sunday School and we will see lots of children in our church!

United Presbyterian Women:

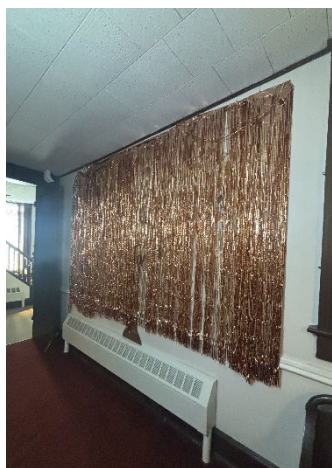
The annual Fall Rummage Sale will be held from Thursday October 1st through Saturday October 3rd. Donations and set-up will begin on Monday September 28th. Please do not bring anything for the sale to the church prior to that week. Thank you in advance for your support of this important UPW mission project.

News and Views from UPC: Dedication of the Stonework Memorial Tree

On Sunday July 12th, the Stonework Committee completed the last phase of their project: dedicating the Memorial Tree in the Narthex. During worship, Jim Van Brunt, a committee member, spoke about how this project came to fruition. A Don Besig song, entitled "Love Grows Here," was sung by members of the choir a special choir for the occasion. Near the end of the service, Pastor Ted dedicated the beautiful wooden leaves and tree that represent all of the donors, including a laying of hands on the tree by several members. Following the dedication, the Stonework Committee hosted a reception in the conference room complete with a special cake.



Special choir members: Front row: Jo B, Linda B, Deb M, Linda V, Cindy F, Diana H, Alysha F. Middle: Lisa S; Back row: Bill B, Jim V, and Bev P. Directed by Earl P. [Photo by Jameson Fitzwater]



Thank you seems so inadequate to express our gratitude for the dedication and perseverance of the members of this committee.

Special covering over the tree prior to the unveiling



Committee members L to R: Lisa S, Jim VB, Linda B, and Dennis W with their "We Did It" cake!



Goodies to help celebrate this wonderful occasion.



Laying hands on the tree
(Pastor Ted's & Jenny's grandkids were part of the festivities!)

The Memorial Tree in our Narthex



News and Views continued:

The Tree Artist:

Now that we have had a chance to see the Stonework Memorial tree in the Narthex of our church, I'd like to share a bit about the extended process and the talented artisan who created it, Lisa Gardner.



You may recall the lovely UPC replica that we carted to the front of our sanctuary each month during our 'Raise the Roof' campaign some years ago. Lisa was the artist and creator behind this project and we appreciated her fine handiwork.

Linda Blauers reached out to her to see if she had some ideas for this project. Lisa always enjoys creative endeavors and was available and open to the Stonework Committee through the entire process. She met with us several times with samples to

help us make the best decisions on the logistics and look of the memorial, going so far as selecting stain colors that would bring out the colors of the stained-glass window in the Narthex.

Lisa's design includes 105 leaves, tree trunk and branches made of red oak and the plaque constructed of basswood. Time-wise each leaf took about 20 minutes to carve using a computer-controlled cutting tool, an additional 20 minutes to hand sand and 30 minutes to stain and dry brush, with drying time between each step. Four more hours were required to carve, stain and seal the tree trunk and branches. The Scripture message on the plaque took two hours to laser, stain and seal. Lisa faced some machine and supply issues requiring her to be patient and willing to start and stop as materials allowed. We are very grateful to Lisa for providing her creative time and efforts to construct this lovely and lasting memorial to the UPC faithful and community members that donated and who were memorialized in the project.

Submitted by Lisa Sanford

Substitute "teacher":

On Sunday July 16th, while Pastor Ted was enjoying some time off, William Wallace Banker provided a homily about the 250th birthday of our country. Many thanks to Bill for your special message.



William Wallace Banker

August Birthdays:

- 2 Jameson Fitzwater
- 3 Linda Jaconski
- 3 Adam Haley
- 5 Zachery Nichols
- 5 Jonathan Halpenny
- 6 Susan Murawski
- 10 Nancy Thompson
- 21 Zona Hitchcock
- 23 Carol Berry
- 26 Diane Willey
- 28 Ryan Kellogg

August Anniversaries:

- 8 Linda & Jim Varner
- 20 Susan & John Murawski
- 23 Linda & Tom Cox

REMINDER: Our Annual Bazaar is Saturday November 7th – what are you going to make, bake, or do to help out??

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Cluster Service @ Arkport 10 AM	3	4	5	6	7 Office Closed Summer hours	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Office Closed Summer hours	15
16	17	18 Joint meeting Session & Trustees 6 PM	19	20	21 Office Closed Summer hours	22 Session Retreat Elmira
23	24	25 M & W meeting 1:30 PM	26	27	28 Office Closed Summer hours	29
30 Dime-A-Day collection	31	September 1 st Only 68 days until the Bazaar 11/7	2	3	4 Office Open regular hours	5

 Pastor Ted's vacation (and Sam is off to college!)

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