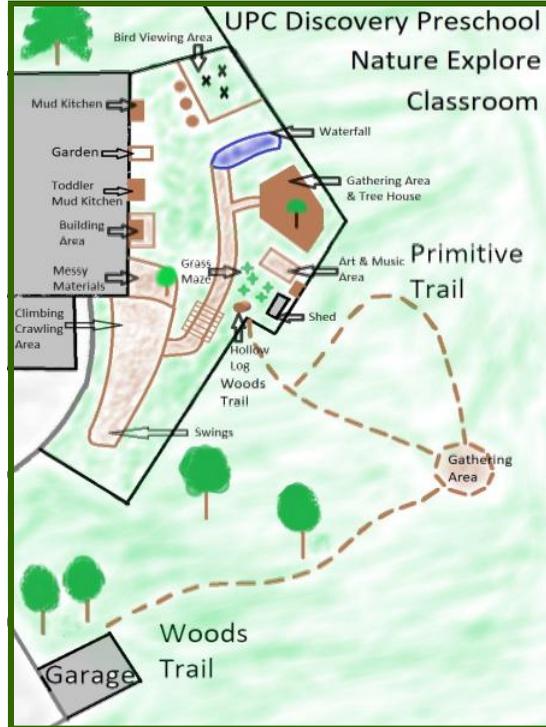
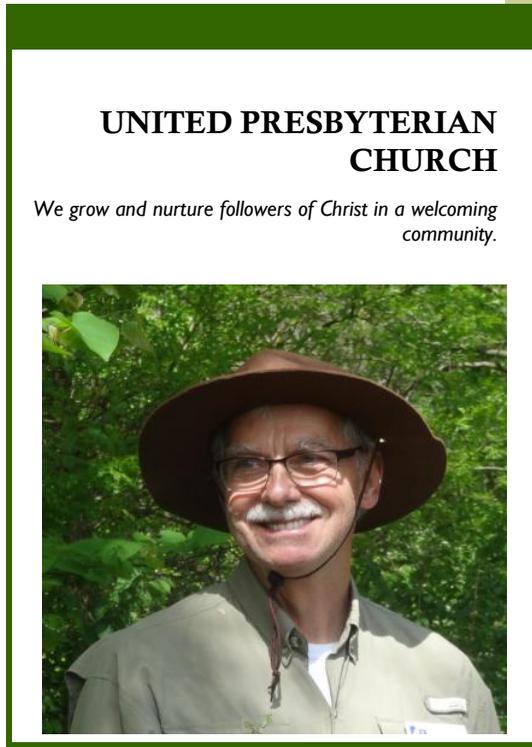


## UPC Discovery Preschool Nature Explore Classroom



The Nature Explore Classroom is part of UPC Discovery Preschool. It provides children with opportunities to explore the natural world. Certified by the Arbor day Foundation, it has specific learning areas: Grassy Maze, Nature Art Center, Nature Music Center, a Gathering Place/Tree House, Messy Materials Area (for digging and moving things), a Raised Bed Garden, Construction Area, a Bird Reserve for observing birds and two Mud Kitchens for making mud pies (one for toddlers and one for preschoolers). There is also a manmade water stream for children to play in.

## Walk with Randy: Discover God's Natural World at UPC Campus



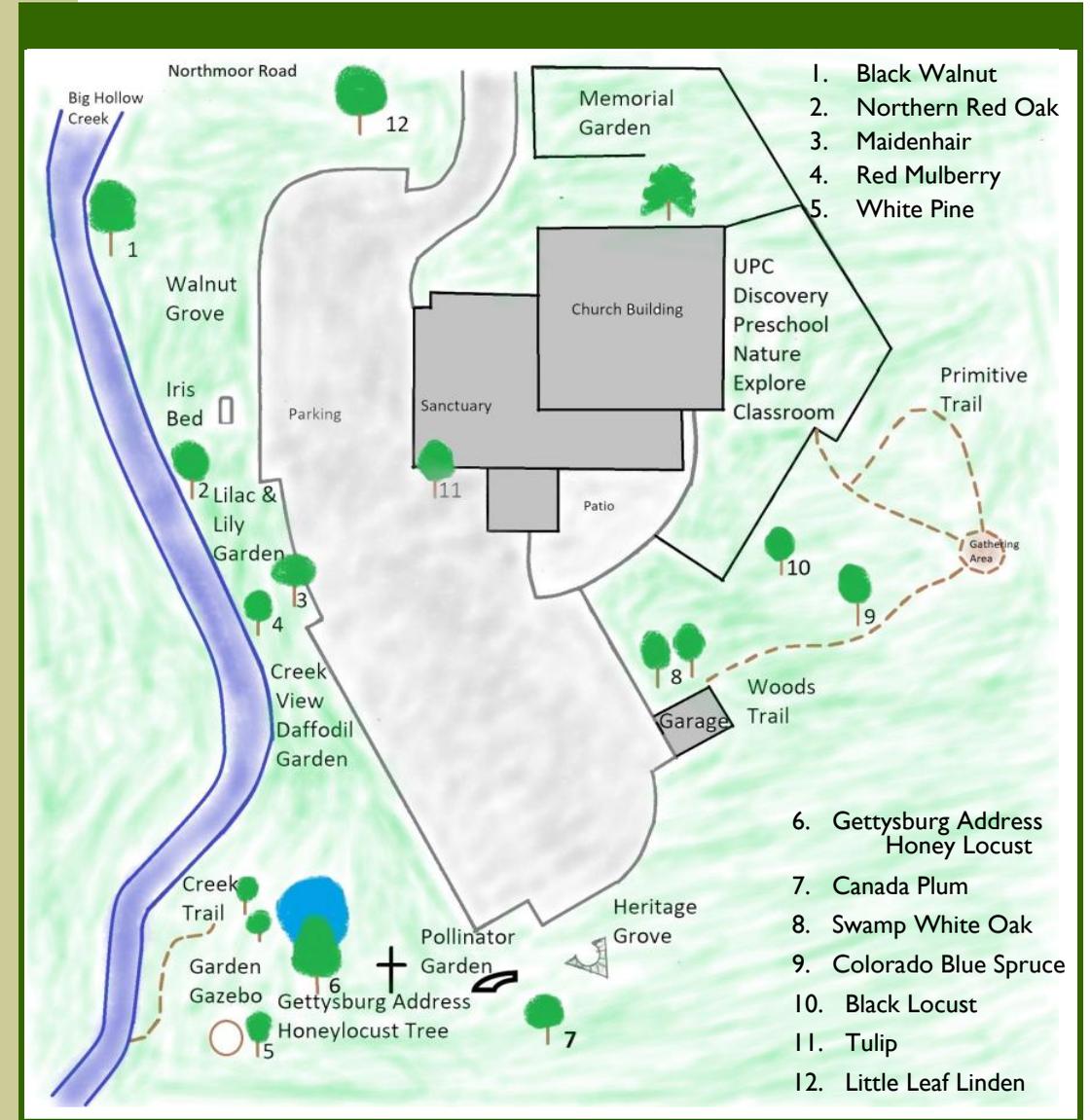
**Rev. Dr. Randall Lee Saxon**  
**Pastor Emeritus**  
**United Presbyterian Church**

United Presbyterian Church  
2400 W Northmoor Rd Peoria, IL 61614  
309-693-2002 upc@unitedpc.org  
unitedpc.org

## Boy Scout Trees



Boy Scout Troup 333 placed markers at twelve different trees on the property, which give the name of the tree and the Boy Scout virtue the tree represents.



# Walk with Randy: God's Natural World at UPC Campus

The ten acre campus of United Presbyterian Church includes wooded areas with hiking trails, a Certified Nature Classroom for children and youth, and nine gardens. It is also certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Habitat.



Our walk begins at the bulletin board in the northwest corner of the property.

Look at the viaduct under Northmoor Road where swallows nest. Look up at the walnut trees. This is **Walnut Grove** named for the **Black Walnut** trees which are planted by many Midwestern towns. Along the creek you can see wild flowers which come up naturally and **Wild Honeysuckle Bushes, Black Locust and Red Bud trees**. Bible studies are sometimes held here.



Iris Garden

Walk to the **Iris Garden** and look for the two varieties of iris.

Walk along the edge of the woods which is bordered by a **Lilac and Lily Garden** and lots of **Wild Honeysuckle**. You will come to a Creek View area with a **Creek Bench**. Take a rest on the bench and see the **Wild Phlox, Honeysuckle** and a **Willow Tree**. No charge to sit!

Find the **Red Mulberry Tree** near the retention pond. Deer often walk by, eat the mulberries and lie down in the plants. If you look towards the creek you can see one of the gabions used to control erosion. The **Crabapple and Tulip Trees** were planted as memorials by church members. **Lilies and yellow Water Irises** have been planted near the storm water basin. See if you can find them. You should now see the **Creek Trail** which the preschool students explore year round. Go down the trail and you can wade and explore Big Hollow Creek.



Creek Trail



Gazebo Garden

Look around for the **Gazebo** surrounded by the **Gazebo Garden**. You might see a swallow nest in the rafters. If you are quiet, you might see the groundhog that lives under the floor.

The Gazebo has been the site of several proposals and photos for proms and weddings. The flower beds feature **Yellow Buttercups, Peonies and a White Pine Tree**.

The **Gettysburg Address Honey Locust Tree** is right by the pond. It comes from a tree at the site of the Lincoln Gettysburg Address.



Gettysburg Address Honeylocust Tree

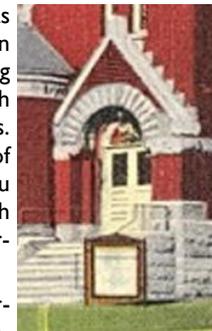
Cross the small footbridge and enter the **Pollinator Garden**. This area is a **Certified Monarch Way Station** and has been planted with labeled flowers that attract butterflies.



Heritage Garden Seating Area

Look for the stone seating area. This is **Heritage Garden**, a hardscape created from stones and brick salvaged from the entrance of the First Presbyterian Church (FPC) after it burned.

FPC was established in 1834 as the first Presbyterian church in this part of the state. The seating area was created by church members with salvaged materials. Stones from the front entry of FPC create the seats. See if you can find the wood piece which held the candle light in the doorway.



Look behind the Heritage Garden and see how the UPC Campus extends up the hillside.



Jack in the Pulpit

Walk past the garage and find the **Woods Trail**. In the spring you can find **May Apples** and **Trillium**. **Jack in the Pulpit** plants, named because they look like the raised pulpit with canopy of early America churches. The three leaves represent the trinity. The preacher is in the pulpit with canopy over head.

**Solomon's Seal**, named after the Biblical King Solomon, has leaves which bow and the spot on the rootstock where a stem has been has indentations in a circle looking like a seal.



Solomon's Seal

Go on up the hill and you will come to a wide spot in

the trail. This **Gathering Area** is where the preschool has story time or Godly Play. It features a **For-sythia Bush and Trilliums** on the pathway. At the bench, you can view the church through the **Red Bud Trees**.



Trilliums

You will come to a branch that leads to the **Primitive Woods Trail** along the waterway to access a natural woods area.



Gathering Area & Tree House

Upon exiting the woods you come to

the **Nature Explore Classroom**. See



Waterfall



Bird Reserve

the back page to read about the nature classroom.

Our walk ends in front of the church at the **UPC Memorial Garden** which provides a place of repose and remembrance in a lovely sacred garden where one can peacefully meditate upon the lives of those who have died.



Memorial Garden