



# The Union News

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

401 Lake Avenue East, PO Box 10, Hackensack, MN 56452-0010

*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey—you are welcome here"*  
*An "Open and Affirming" Congregation*



Church Office: (218) 675-6300  
Pastor: Rev. Torri Vande Zande

<http://www.unioncchackensack.com>  
Email: [unionucc401@gmail.com](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com)

Toll Free: (888) 887-4820



## SEPTEMBER 2019

Notes from  
Rev. Torri Vande Zande

### A Message to Our Summer Friends.....



Summer is winding down and our summer members and friends will be heading back to their winter homes soon. I enjoyed the time spent with people from all over the country who call this little town of Hackensack, MN home for a few months out of the year. Please know this church loves you all and misses you when you are away.

I am reminded of Paul's words in Philippians 1: 3-6, *"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."*

During this season of parting, we (Union) want you to remember 3 things:

We miss you when you are gone. You are part of us and are highly valued in this church and in this community.

We send you out with blessings. Wherever you go and whatever God is leading you to do, may God's blessing guide, protect and strengthen you. We pray for you. You are in our hearts and in our prayers. Please send us praises reports and prayer requests. It would be an honor to lift you up to God.

Finally my friends, may God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you. May God be gracious to you. And may God's face turn to you and give you peace. Amen.  
Go in peace. Travel safe. And we anxiously wait for your time to return to us.

In Christ Alone,  
Pastor Torri

**Sunday Worship at 9:00 A.M.**

**Communion: First Sunday each Month**  
**Coffee and Fellowship Following Service at 10:00 A.M.**

**Church Staff**

Pastor.....	Rev. Torri Vande Zande
Church Secretary.....	Julie Rono
Financial Secretary.....	Don Hoppe
Treasurer.....	Sheryl Kaubisch
Choir Director.....	Sheryl Kaubisch
Bell Choir Director.....	Heidi Hoppe
Organists.....	Sheryl Kaubisch
Pianist.....	Kathleen Millberg, Barb Nish
Custodian.....	Sue Johnson
"Morning Out".....	Sue Johnson

**Church Council**

Moderator.....	Joni Kumpula
Vice-Moderator.....	Tom Cox
Clerk.....	Karen Holle
Board of Financial Stewardship.....	Don Hoppe

**Ministry Teams:**

Christian Learning.....	Jo Horak
Congregational Life.....	Margaret Zieffler
Facilities.....	Mike Bohanon and Ron Merritt
Personnel.....	Church Council
Worship.....	Heidi Hoppe
Men's Fellowship.....	Ron Merritt
Women's Fellowship.....	Linda Merritt

**Moderator's Notes**

Greetings and happy September! Summer was great and oh so fast! There were so many wonderful Union activities and I hope you were able to participate in lots of them. I worked hard on the "faith community" pie sale. I love the four churches working together. It was a hit and I think it can happen again at the next North Woods Art sale. We sold 180 pieces of pie and made \$900 for the Hub.

The all church meeting recognizing our past, present and dreaming for the future was great. It certainly made us think deeply about Union, its place in the Hackensack community and our future. I came out feeling good about our goals and our future. Union is a one of a kind place and very special to many people.

The KOKORO music school has opened using our facility. I feel that this is a great addition to our community and certainly needed by many. Here is to a long and happy union!

We finally have a sign on 371 that can be seen...I hope that everyone can now find us more easily...it is beautiful!

Well, I have been out of town and late getting this in, so must run along.

See you in church,

Joni

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

September 1 Margaret Zieffler

September 4 Phoebe Vosbeck

September 11 Monica Linquist

September 12 Kathy Jader

September 13 Don Hoppe

September 14 Ed Curo

September 16 Mike Bohanon

Steve Merritt

September 18 Kathleen Millberg

Lee Morén

September 20 Bud Leines

September 29 Anne McGill

September 30 Benjamin Hoppe





## GAME NIGHTS

Join us on  
September 8 & 22  
at 5:30 p.m.  
Bring a dish to share.

## Bible Study

Monday mornings  
10:00 coffee and conversation  
10:30 to 11:30 education and enquiry  
using the Upper Room study material.

## Caesar's Tales

Hi, my name is Caesar and I'm the church dog. This past month I have been very busy at my house. There are squirrels in my yard! They chatter and yell at me like I'M in THEIR yard... but NO! They are in MY yard and THEY need to get OUT! When my human has me inside, I always keep a close eye out the window just in case one of them decides to take a chance on stealing one of the walnuts off of MY tree! I don't eat walnuts... but I might need them later for something.

My human makes sure I keep busy at the church too. There have been several times this month I have sat to visit with some friends. I really like older male humans. They scratch my ears and rub my belly. Some of them even give me treats!

Humans sometimes tell stories about a dog (like me) they once had. When there is a sadness in their voice, I know they are not able to pet their dog anymore, so that is why they pet me. I don't mind. It is nice to know I can comfort them. I remember not to be slobbery or show too much affection... some humans don't like that. But, I do give kisses when they let me. So that is what I'm doing lately! My life is all about squirrels and friends! Thank you for reading my story.

Have a barky day!

Caesar

"Union Congregational Church Dog"



## BIBLICAL TEXTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – Acts 15:36-41  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Acts 16:16-35  
Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Acts 17: 16-34  
Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> – Hymn Sing at church







## COUNCIL MINUTES – AUGUST 15, 2019

**PRESENT:** Ellie Nelson, Tom Cox, Stan Kumpula, Heidi Hoppe, Pastor Torri, Don Hoppe, Joni Kumpula, Karen Holle, Ron Merritt, Linda Merritt, Jo Horak

Pastor Torri offered a convening prayer.

The agenda was approved as written. The minutes were approved as written. Heidi/Linda

**Pastor's Monthly Report:** Pastor Torri submitted her monthly report to Council. She has attended her usual meetings and has attended several game nights. Torri has spent quite a bit of time this month attending to needs of various members of the congregation. She has also gotten to know several members of the church that she hasn't known well until now.

This month we honored Stan Kumpula and Elsa McNelis for the time they have spent over the years volunteering their talents for the church. A very meaningful memorial service was conducted for Don Willis which was well attended. On August 24 Torri has invited all of us to attend a meeting with her called "Reminiscing and Dreaming with the Pastor".

**Financial Stewardship Board:** Don Hoppe reported that we have had higher than expected donations to the church this last month and our expenses have been lower than last year. The Stewardship Campaign is underway. So far 13 pledges have come in for a total of \$25,000. The goal this year is to receive \$125,000 in pledges. Pledges need to be in by September 15, if possible. Several members of Council thanked Don for writing a really good stewardship letter.

**Facilities:** Kokoro contract: Karen reviewed the contract that has been created between Kokoro and the church. The contract has been signed by several people on the Kokoro board, but we do not have a copy yet. As soon as we get that contract, Ron Merritt will sign it for the church.

Sink Hole Update- Ron spoke to Ray Schrupp about our sinkhole in the parking lot and has a plan for fixing it. Ray suggested that several wheelbarrow loads of class 5 need to be dumped into the hole. This will settle and should do the trick. If more is needed, it will be added later.

Ferrellgas Contract: We will follow up with Vern Peterson on Sunday to get details regarding our special price with Ferrellgas.

Fire extinguisher over the upstairs kitchen stove: Ron has heard that the fire extinguisher is not quite right. He will check with the fire inspector to see what the problem is.

Sanctuary projector: Ron has ordered cable to connect audio to the projector in the sanctuary.

Church keys: Joni mentioned that there are several keys out to people who were loaned a key for an event, but have not returned the key. Joni will follow up on getting these keys returned.

**Personnel:** Julie Rono has decided that she needs to resign from the job as church secretary/office manager. She has given us information concerning her job duties and she is willing to help train her replacement. Karen will work on creating an ad for the job and Torri and Julie will create a job description.

### **Ministry Team Reports:**

**Congregational Life:** The Called to Care team meets monthly to identify church members and friends that need extra attention or help in their lives. There are always people in this group who benefit from the team's efforts.

**Worship:** Heidi reported that attendance at Sunday worship is good. Mimi Carlson and Sebastian Webb will play for the service on September 8.

**Women's Fellowship and Men's Fellowship:** Pastor Torri has met with Ron and Linda Merritt to discuss combining the men's and women's ministries at the church. The women would continue their prayer bear and blanket ministry and the men would continue to provide food boxes for community members twice a year. Pastor Torri has ideas for raising money to fund these projects. More discussion to follow on this subject. In the meantime, the men will clean up highway 40 at their September meeting and will travel to Deep Portage for their October meeting. After that, we will look at having joint meetings.

**Christian Learning:** Jo reported that her team is planning a community "open house" on September 18 at the Community Center. This event happened last year and attracted over 100 people to it. At this event people learn about the planned programming at the church for children and families. Last year at this event families indicated an interest in having music lessons for their children offered locally. After a great deal of work, Kokoro was organized and the lessons have started!

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**Continued from Page 4**

Justice Ministry Team: The JMT will be sponsoring a water forum on Sunday with Tom Watson as the presenter. The Pilot had a good article this week describing the talk and Tom's credentials.

Moderator Moment: Joni thinks that it would be a good idea to keep our worship time on Sundays the same year round instead of changing it in the fall and the spring. This would reduce confusion in the spring and fall for our church members. She asked us to consider a start time of 9:30 a.m.

Old business: Our new sign is being installed at the corner of Highway 371 and Lake St. The new sign has been created by Gregg Webb with input from Council.

Stan mentioned that several years ago we became an "Earthwise" congregation. Stan will review what this really means and we will see if we are doing all we can in this area of conservation.

Pastor Torri offered a benediction.

Meeting adjourned.

Clerk, Karen Holle

## Notes from the Board of Financial Stewardship

The long time Chair of the board, Stan Kumpula, stepped down from his leadership role as of the Semi-Annual meeting in July. We thank Stan for all the time and effort he has given to this important position, and we know that we can call on him as a resource.

The Board of Financial Stewardship currently consists of Don Hoppe as Chair and Financial Secretary, Sheryl Kaubisch as Treasurer, Caryl Allan, and Ron Merritt as Asst. Financial Secretary. Pastor Torri Vande Zande is an active participant in our meetings.

Caryl is learning the "ropes" of our accounting software and accounts and will be working with Sheryl in the Treasurer position.

We are always looking for more people to be active on the board, and if you have an interest or would like more information please talk to Don Hoppe.

We also would like some people to be on the Audit Committee. This is a once-a-year, short term commitment.

Year-to-date, our finances are good. We had a sizable carry over from last fiscal year; our pledges, donations and other income are greater; and happily, our expenses are lower than last year. However, much can change fairly quickly, and we need to have a good stream of pledges and donations for the remainder of the year to enter 2020 in a solid financial position.

We are currently in our Stewardship Campaign for 2020. If you have not yet made your pledge, please do so by September 15. Our goal for pledges for next year is \$125,000. At the time of writing this message we have received pledges from 26 giving units, both members and friends, of \$61,850, almost 50% of our goal.

Additional items that the board is working on are: planned giving to the church, an internal audit of our financial books for 2017 and 2018, and simplifying our church accounts.



## Help Us Achieve Our Goal!

**Target: \$125,000      Achieved: \$61,850**

Help Union Church meet our pledge fundraising goal for 2020.

We need your help and commitment.



0.0%   10.0%   20.0%   30.0%   40.0%   50.0%   60.0%   70.0%   80.0%   90.0%   100.0%





# **kokoro** **CORNER**

## **Kokoro is Up and Running!**

by Kiki Carter Webb

The Kokoro Center for Music and the Performing Arts is up and running. The sounds of people learning piano, voice, guitar and saxophone fill the halls with music! It's such a delight to watch people light up as they discover their gifts.

Fall Quarter starts on Monday, Sept. 30th and we still have some lesson space available on Mondays & Tuesdays. Lessons offered include woodwinds, brass, piano, acoustic & electric guitar, ukulele, melodica, electric bass, music theory, poetry, songwriting, live sound and home recording. Lessons are \$25/half hour lesson, or \$240 per quarter for 12 weeks of lessons. (A \$60 savings) There's an extra 10% discount for all official members of Union Church! There is a one-time registration fee of \$30. For more info, please email Kiki at [kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com](mailto:kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com).

We are thrilled to announce our new Kokoro Board of Directors: Joni Kumpala - chair, Linnea Dietrich - Vice Chair, Theresa Eclov - Treasurer, and Nancy Bruns - Secretary. A truly wonderful and supportive group of women to work with.

A big thank you to Union Congregational Church, for welcoming Kokoro with open arms and being so very supportive of our budding music school and performing arts center. We are grateful for you!

### **Upcoming dates:**

Monday, September 30th - Music School Fall Quarter Begins

Thursday, October 10th - 7pm (6:30 sign up) - *Express Yourself!* Open mic on the Second Thursday of each month. Music-poetry-spoken word. Sign up for your choice of a 5, 10, or 15 min time slot. Open to the public. Free-will donation goes to Union and Kokoro. Specialty coffees, teas and goodies available.

Thursday, December 19th - 7pm - 11th Annual Peace Concert. Free-will donation goes to Union and Kokoro.



## **JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE!**

### **Update on Impact of Industrial Agriculture on the Pineland Sands Area**

As a follow-up to his and Jim Etzel's presentation at our July water protectors forum, Mike Tauber provided the following information:

"At this point the 2019 Citizen Petition for Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) in the Pineland Sands Area (3rd citizen petition) is under DNR consideration. The urgent issues include:

- nitrate contamination of groundwater,
- surface water contamination,
- groundwater over-use (which includes private well interference),
- deforestation, and
- aerial chemical applicators routine overspray of neighboring properties with hazardous chemicals.

Treaty rights are also a big concern in that we are approaching the point of having little for tribes (or anyone else) to hunt, fish or gather with RD Offutt Company (RDO, one of the biggest conventional potato producers in the world) running rough-shod in the area.

I have been led to believe that, in response to the current petition, DNR *may* address more than just nitrate contamination of groundwater. But they need to hear from the public."

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If you can contact the DNR to urge them to address more than just the nitrate contamination issue, or if you want more information on any of the issues listed above, please contact Mike. His contact information is 218-675-5717 and [mjtauber42@outlook.com](mailto:mjtauber42@outlook.com)

## **Celebrating the Past - Myra Damm, Historian**

### **1991 Annual Report**

As I was going thru the annual report of 1991, I found many interesting items that I would like to highlight.

In 1991, the clerk reported the church roll had 308 members and 49 associate members.

Pastor Arden Johnson wrote his final annual report letter, mentioning that he had served UCC for more than 21 years. At the time of his retirement we were yoked with the church in Walker.

From November 1990 to Dec. 1991, the Search Committee met and interviewed different candidates, evaluating various candidates. On November 21, 1991, an agreement was reached with Rev. Michael Small to replace Arden Johnson as our new Pastor. Rev. Small gave his first sermon to the congregation on Dec 29, 1991 and his duties began on May 1, 1992.

The future building projects committee met on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1991 to conduct a feasibility study and propose a building project plan to accommodate the expected need for office space for a new pastor and church secretary, possible main floor restrooms, fireside room/library and remodeled kitchen. In December architect Roy L. Abbott was retained for preliminary work to achieve the identified goals.

The Music Committee reported it had applied for two grants from the state and the county for the Bell Choir, and to our delight we received both. These monies enabled us to purchase new tables, covers, stands and music. Also in 1991 the formation of the women's sextet under the direction of Ann DeGray.



## CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Monday Morning Bible Study meets in the Library each week at 10:00 AM for conversation and coffee. Bible Study runs from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM and uses Upper Room materials. Please join this group of supportive people as we explore life's mysteries. Sometimes we also find solutions with the help of God and prayers! Coffee/treats are good too!

Friday Morning Out begins for Fall on September 13th in Union Church Lower Level. All Preschoolers welcome 9:00 AM - Noon. Lots of free play, art, music, snacks, and more with two caring adults present. No cost so parents, grandparents, or other caregivers may run errands, keep appointments, or just have a quiet moment. Please call Sue at 218-820-3870 to arrange a first visit. Drop-in's also welcome.

Family Table is a gathering of multigenerational people who come together to share a hot meal and fellowship each Wednesday Evening at 5:30 PM. A Community Picnic on September 18th( note date change) at the Hackensack Community Center will begin the Fall Season. This is a large gathering with special food, games, and more. Please join us at 5:30 PM. Bring a dish to share if you wish. Games for all ages available. Next week Family Table will return to the Lower Level of Union Church. Meals are provided at no cost but donations will be gratefully accepted. Future menus will be posted in Union Church Lower Level. Please contact Sue at 218-820-3870 for specific details.

Let's go to the Movies! The Fall Movie schedule begins on Thursday, September 26th. This is a new day of the week so let's try it. Movie with hot popcorn begins at 3:30 PM. Light meal with shared fellowship to follow. Movie is The Green Book. This movie is based on a true story and has dramatic moments of a shared journey in the Deep South. Invite your family and friends to 'Dinner and a Movie'. All welcome to Join us in Lower Level Sept. 26th.

Union Church Christian Learning Team has already co-sponsored with the Justice Ministry Team two Forums this year - both with a connection to water. The Faith Project led a forum about Haiti and also used water as a topic. All were excellent and informative. Plans to explore this critical topic further are on track for October. Watch your bulletins and Church website for details.

Mark your calendars! Heart Of Christmas -the Christmas Youth Program-is December 8th Hard to believe but must plan ahead.

The School Of Performing Arts (including Music) has begun giving lessons on Monday evenings in the Lower Level of Union Church. The large white signs with Kokoro on them are guides to the new non-profit based here. Very exciting to have this opportunity so close to home with excellent instruction! More information is available on a Poster, Use your phone to take a picture of Poster with details.

Enjoy cooler weather but keep warm hearts available for all Union Church Fall activities. Praise to all!

The Christian Learning Team



## Look Out Your Window

Fall is upon us and with it will come some changes in the wildlife we share this beautiful region with. Some of these changes are in reaction to the cooling climate and some are actually chemical as is the case with the deer and the rutting season. Right now it is still Summer and the deer seem almost tame but this will change and they will become much more wary.

I was talking with our next door neighbor, John Ingham, this morning and he was telling me about a deer that comes to his back door nearly every morning. We can't see it because it is on the other side of his house but we have seen deer in our yard many times. It is always fun to see them but I will have to remember to ask John if it is still doing that later in the year, like in October.

Joanne and I take our little ride nearly every day on the roads I used to use to hunt ruffed grouse on and the little sub-roads that branch off them and deep into the woods. We haven't seen a grouse in many months. They seem to have been replaced by turkeys which we never saw years ago. We see turkeys frequently but never in the large groups we often saw last Spring.

We see deer quite often on our rides and the change there is in the fawns. A couple of months ago the fawns were small and covered with small white spots and now they are about half the size of the mother doe and most of the spots have faded away. In a few weeks, they will just be a small deer.

Recently, we drove home from Hackensack and turned off 371 onto our road and started up the hill toward the Transfer Station. The shoulders of the road had been recently mowed and about half way up the hill a doe was standing in the short grass. We stopped to watch her and a big fawn ran up to her and another stepped out of the woods on the other side of her. We just sat and watched as the two big fawns started to nurse and none of them seemed to care that we were there. They finally moved off into the woods when another car came up the road and went around us.

Another deer event took place in the farm country west of town and was unique for us. We saw a buck. In all the deer we have seen on our rides we have never been able to identify a male, all have been does. This one had antlers, still in velvet but very visible.

Our rides all start off with a stop at our mailbox to collect the newspapers and magazines and letters. There are about a dozen mailboxes all in a row and we are about in the middle. Last week we had stopped to get the mail and I had reached out the car window when I noticed an adult doe standing on the other side of the mailbox watching me. She wasn't frightened and when I talked to her she just stood and seemed to be listening. When we decided to leave she just moved a little when our car moved but she never did run away.

Lastly, the swans are still around. Today, we saw two in a pond east of Pleasant Lake. It sure is fun and interesting to have all this wildlife around us. We enjoy it greatly.

Lee Moren

### Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship will be  
Tuesday, September 3  
9:00 AM  
Join them for breakfast!

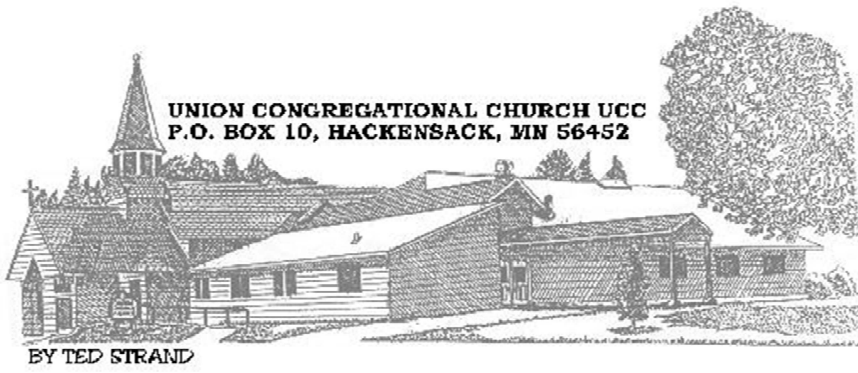


Sunday, September 8—Bake sale  
Thursday, September 12—Discussion and making  
Prayer Bears  
Tuesday, September 17—Making Prayer Blankets

# SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship 9am Communion Fellowship 10am	2 10:00am—11:30am Upper Room Bible Study	3 9:00 Men's Fellowship	4	5	6	7
8 Worship 9am Special Music Fellowship 10am Bake Sale 5:30pm Game Night	9 10:00am—11:30am Upper Room Bible Study	10 5:30pm Financial Stewardship Meeting	11 1:00pm-3:00pm Fellowship 2:00pm—Justice Ministry Team Meeting	12 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	13 9:00am—12:00pm Morning Out	14
15 Worship 9am Fellowship 10am 10:15am Worship Meeting	16 10:00am—11:30am Upper Room Bible Study	17 10:00am—12:00pm and 1:00pm—3:00pm Making Prayer Blankets 3:00pm Pastor Torri at Birchview	18 5:30pm Open House for Family Table at Community Center	19 1:00pm—Church Council	20 9:00am—12:00pm Morning Out	21
22 Worship 9am Fellowship 10am 5:30pm Game Night	23 10:00am—11:30am Upper Room Bible Study	24	25	26	27 9:00am—12:00pm Morning Out 5:00pm FIA Booya Fundraiser	28
29 Worship 9am Fellowship 10am	30 10:00am—11:30am Upper Room Bible Study					





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**2019**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO  
OUR MANY EVENTS**

**Check all the great pictures  
throughout the Newsletter  
from the Reminisce with  
Pastor Torri Event**