



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
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OCTOBER 2019

Notes from
Rev. Torri Vande Zande

DIRECTIONS

It was a Tuesday afternoon. Don and I were in the church office getting some work done when a woman came in the front doors. She was in her 60's with greying hair and she looked exhausted. She simply said, "Can you help me?" There was a desperation in her voice that made me think that she was going to ask for money, but her next words surprised me.

"My service dog and my friend are in the car. We have been traveling from New York. We have spent the last 24 hours in the car and we are so tired. We stopped at the hotel, but we couldn't find anyone to help us. We even went into one of the businesses and they couldn't track down the hotel owner's either. We just want to check in to some type of hotel and rest. Can you help us?"

"Well" I said, "There is a hotel about 20 minutes north of here next to a restaurant called Lucky Moose. Is 20 minutes too far."

"No, we can drive there" she replied, "We just need to rest."



Don immediately got on the phone to call the hotel. He made sure there was a room available and then asked if they accepted dogs (they did). Then he told them there were two women and a dog showing up in about 20 minutes. This woman's face looked so relieved. She then said, *"We didn't know where to go for help. No one could help us, but then we saw your sign on the corner and thought maybe your church could help."*

The woman left with the hotel information and directions in her hand. She got in her car and drove away. Her need was met, her heart was hopeful and she was on her way to finding rest. All because she saw our sign on the corner. I believe God gives people signs all the time to point them in the right direction... I call it guidance. And I believe God guided that woman to our church to receive help. God uses signs all the time. Sometimes the signs are literal signs such as our church sign on the corner. Other times a sign could be a conversation that strikes a chord in your heart, an item that triggers something you must remember or a friend who shows up at just the right time. These are all signs of God pointing people in the right direction.

My hope is that God continues to use our sign on the corner to bring more people to our little church in Hackensack. And I also hope God continues to use other signs as well. Our little church has so much to offer someone who is spiritually tired and just wants a place to rest. My hope is that their needs are met, their heart leaves a bit more hopeful and that we help them begin to find their way to peace and rest.

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

Moderators Notes

Greetings for October! Leaves are falling, temps are falling and it is beautiful! Our numbers are smaller every Sunday. However, we are just as busy as ever. The Wednesday night suppers are back in full swing and all boards are working. The Men's and Women's fellowships are meeting and moving ahead with projects. Movie afternoon showed Green Book this month. The Justice Ministry Team expanded their mission statement to include the environment. The KoKoRo School of Music located in our facility is up and running at full speed including lessons and an open mic. Game night is great and we are planning a trivia night. Our digital face is up to date and growing. Our home, world and Hackensack Missions are working and growing. Wonderful things are happening at Union and with the lovely new sign on 371 new folk can find us!

I am filled with joy and pride to be a working member of this church that is a bright star in the community of Hackensack. After saying that I had better get to work!

See you at church, Joni



Join in with
friendly conversation
and desserts,
Thursday, October 12
at 1:00 PM

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 1	Carole Griggs
October 4	Mary Curo Lynn Smith
October 5	Karen Wiersma
October 6	Jean Carlson
October 12	Andrew Johnson
October 17	Scott Kutscher
October 18	Rodney Damm
October 19	Sandra Meyer
October 22	Wes Cline
October 23	Don Smith
October 25	Mary Lou Nissly
October 30	Caesar the Church Dog



Karen Holle and Julie Rono, Editors



BIBLICAL TEXTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Oct. 6th - Acts 24:1-27

Oct. 13th - Acts 28: 17-31

Oct. 20th - I Peter 1:3-7 "Horton Hatches the Egg" (The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss Series)

Oct. 27th - Matt. 26:36-39 "What Was I Scared Of?" (The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss Series)

Nov. 3rd - Matthew 5:1-12; Matthew 7:24-27 "Yertle the Turtle" (The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss Series)

Caesar's Tales

Hi, my name is Caesar and I'm the church dog. Sometimes in the middle of the night I hear strange things outside of my human's house. I can not see what it is, so I often will warn my human of the trespasser, burglar, or murderer creeping outside the window. It is usually only a squirrel or deer... but you can't be too careful.

I like that my human does not get angry at me when I bark at night. I am a good boy, but my bark is very loud and scary. She lets me express and communicate how God designed me to be and I am very glad she knows that. I am a dog, God created me to be a certain way and to do certain things like barking, sniffing and peeing on things.

I do not think all dogs get to bark and communicate like me. Some dogs get silenced or abused for just simply being dogs. I know that for a fact because before I met my pastor human, I had another human who did not like how I acted and I got into so much trouble I went to jail (or as humans call it... a shelter). They treated me really well there. I loved this one lady named Tami! She was my favorite. She made sure I found my pastor human and was adopted into a home where I can communicate in my own way.

My human has a lot of books about how humans treat each other. Sometimes I look at them. Did you know there are different kinds of humans? Humans come in different colors, sizes, sexual orientations and smells (I put that last one in myself). They have different gods, ways of understanding the world and even different ways of dressing.

And I have learned that when humans do not understand each other, they fear or abuse those who are different. I think that is sad and I do not agree with that. I believe God creates everything different on purpose.

My human has a friend named Janet who said, *"We live too much in a world in which persons—human, canine or otherwise—are feared and persecuted for being what God intended."* Janet is smart! And I think she is right.

Maybe if humans took some time to smell each other more things would be different. That is how I got use to "Bandit" (the cat) I live with. My human made me smell his blanket first, then his toys, and then I got to meet him. And when I finally met "Bandit", it wasn't that big of a deal because I already knew what he was like. It was easier for me to be a kind to him because I made the effort to know him. Maybe humans should do that?

Have a barky day!

Caesar

"Union Congregational Church Dog"



P.S. The feelings represented by "the dog" is NOT how I (the cat) feel and I (the cat) will continue to discriminate against "the dog". Sincerely, "Bandit"



COUNCIL MINUTES – 19-9-19

PRESENT: Tim Braun representing Parrot Film Co., Mike Bohannon, Joni Kumpula, Karen Holle, Mary Parrish, Ron Merritt, Linda Merritt, Caryl Allan, Jo Horak, Tom Cox, Pastor Torri Vande Zande, Don Hoppe

Joni called the meeting to order and offered a convening prayer. The agenda was approved as written. Tom, Mary. The minutes from our last meeting were approved. Tom/Don.

Tim Braun from Parrot Film met with us for a few minutes to talk about the advertising that can be created for the church that would be shown at the Bear Pause Theater. Parrot would help us prepare the ad, would write the copy and would record the ad using a professional voice over artist. We would get to approve the ad before it would be used. The final ad would be 20 seconds long and would run before all shows at the Bear Pause for four months for \$398. As a church we would get a 10% discount on the ad. The ad could then be used on our own face-book page or on our website or on you-tube. At the end of the meeting Mary Parrish offered a motion that we proceed with this advertising plan. The motion was seconded by Ron Merritt and was passed by Council. Torri, Linda M, Don H and Caryl will be the team working on this project.

Pastor's monthly report to council: Torri presented her monthly report in writing. She told us about the work that Miho Adkins has been doing with face-book, google, the website and you-tube. Miho is connecting these modalities so that we can better connect the younger generation with our church through social media and a web presence.

Next month Torri will talk more about the work Miho is doing. Torri also mentioned that it would be a good idea to have a church cell phone that could be monitored by someone in the church when Torri is out of town. This would help with emergencies that come up from time to time.

Several weeks ago Miho started recording the church service on Facebook Live. She has noticed that the internet weakens when all the devices in the sanctuary are connected. We might need a "hot spot booster" to resolve that problem. At this point there was some discussion about going to Facebook live without letting the congregation know that was happening. Torri will discuss this at our next service on Sunday.

Torri is also working with a team of people to organize our first Trivia Night which will occur on November 2 at 5:00. Each member of a team will pay \$10 to attend the event. There will be drinks available and each table will bring their own snacks to eat. The money collected will be used to fund the men's and women's fellowship outreach projects.

Financial Stewardship Board: Don Hoppe reported that our financial picture looks good as of the end of August. Our donations are \$15,000 ahead of last year at this time and our expenses are a little less than they were last year at this time. There have been 36 pledges made this year for a total of \$84,940 which is 68% of our goal. Eight of the pledges made are new pledges. Don also mentioned that improvements are being made to the accounting system of the church. Checks will not be issued in advance of purchases unless there is a quote for a particular item or service. In order to be reimbursed for purchases receipts must be turned over.

Facilities: Joni reported that the Bone Builder group has donated about \$360 to the church for use of the downstairs room for their exercise class.

Ron mentioned that he has been in touch with Ferrellgas concerning the Union church group and price of gas for the 2019 – 2020 heating season. We will pay \$119 per gallon for propane. This price is available to church members. Call Ron if you are interested in being part of this group.

Ron has asked our electrician to fix the issue in our upstairs kitchen that did not meet the fire inspector's code. At the same time the electrician will look at several of our outside lights to make sure they are working properly.

A floor drain will be added in the storage room downstairs so that the de-humidifier can empty automatically.

Personnel: The church has advertised in both the Pilot Independent and the Press Citizen for our secretarial/office manager position. To date we have received 5 resumes and will begin interviews soon. Karen, Torri and Joni will be on the interview team.

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Ministry team reports: Congregational Life: Torri reported that this team did not meet in September, but will meet in October. At this time the team cannot address some of the activities that it should be addressing. Just caring for the needs of our own elderly members takes a lot of the team's time and Torri's time. Torri is interested in obtaining a parish nurse again to help with this important work. Council is open to this idea. Next month Don will bring more information regarding how we might be able to find the money for this project.

Worship: On September 29 we will have a hymn sing at church. There will be no sermon that day, but scripture will be read between hymns.

Women's Fellowship: Linda reported that \$173 was made at the recent bake sale. At the last meeting the women decided that they would continue with their own meetings and would not join with the men's group. The blanket and prayer bear project is moving forward.

Men's Fellowship: Last month after a good breakfast, the men cleaned up highway 40. On October 1 the men will be travelling to Deep Portage for a tour and discussion.

Christian Learning: Jo reported that 65 people attended the fall picnic at the community building last night. The Sentenced to serve team from the County helped with the set up for the event. Information on morning out and family table was available at the event. Gary Kwong has invited children to visit 3M in October. There also may be youth joining our children from the Leech Lake Reservation.

Justice Ministry Team: Two weeks ago Mike Tauber led a water quality tour that 15 – 18 people attended, including people from the justice ministry team. Mike showed how potato fields are making lakes vulnerable to pollution and reduced depth. Steve Erickson wrote a summary of that event which will be printed in the October newsletter. Torri mentioned that she has asked the Justice Ministry Team to consider adding another project to their list. The team has accepted the project of deepening our commitment to the Open and Affirming Process to their important work.

Moderator's Moment: Joni read us a very nice card that we received from the Northwoods Arts Council thanking us for help with and space for their August event. Joni is on the board of the Kokoro music school. October 10th will be the first time Kokoro sponsors and "open mike" night at our church. Joni also asked us if we had considered changing the time of the church service to 9:30 year round. We decided that we should ask the congregation before making any change to start time. Heidi will organize this.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting October 17th. Clerk, Karen Holle



Worship Service Time Change?

The Council is discussing a change in the time of our worship service and would like your input. Historically (when Union was yoked with Community Church of Walker, and we shared a pastor), our service was held at 9:00 all year long. Several years ago (long after the yoke was dissolved) we moved to a later service in the winter to accommodate the later sunrise.

The Council is now contemplating a permanent change. If you have not already voted, please send a note or email to "Union Church - Time Change" with your preference. Here are the choices:

Service at 9:00 all year long

Service at 10:00 all year long

Service at 9:30 all year long

As is: May 1 – Oct 31 = 9:00
Nov 1 – Apr 30 = 10:00

OBSERVATIONS OF A BYSTANDER (by Steve Erickson)

I have never really thought much about water (it has always been there) until my friend Mary Ackermann started pointing out how important our fragile water resources are and how we fail to protect them. Then, my friend Mike Tauber began speaking out about how the water under our feet is in peril, because of contamination occurring to the aquifers. Finally, I said to Mike, can you show us what you are talking about?

On Labor Day weekend, 16 of us from the Ten Mile Lake Association went on a “Water Tour.” With Mike leading, we met at the Hubbard County line road and drove a few miles to Crystal Lake (about four miles from Ten Mile Lake) and visited a family that has had a home on the small lake since the early the 1930s. They showed us shore line changes, and how the lake levels have dropped significantly, by their estimate, almost nine feet in the past ten years. They believe the drop is due to intensive irrigation by the industrial farming operation of the nearby RD Offutt potato farms center pivot irrigation wells drawing on the Pineland Sands Aquifer.

We then went to Mike and Jen Tauber’s home for a lunch prepared from vegetables grown in their completely organic garden. I don’t believe I have ever tasted such succulent carrots as the ones they served cold and fresh. Since then, I have been thinking that every meat eater should, from time to time, eat a lunch prepared from the Tauber’s garden just to see what they have been missing. Mike said the garden has “taken off” since a friend told him to stop cultivating, and just mulch the leaves and stalks into the ground in the fall. This helps the organisms in the soil regenerate and be ready to contribute their part for the next growing season.

After lunch, we walked about a half a mile through his woods to the edge of the neighboring farm operated by a subcontractor of RD Offutt Farms. The expanse of neatly growing potato plants seemed endless. There, Mike told us about how 10,000 years ago, the glaciers came through and scraped off all the top soil, leaving sand. When his neighbor bought the 160 acres to convert to potato farming, it took only a few months to scrape off a maturing pine and oak forest. Mike explained that sand is good soil for growing pine trees and blueberries, but in order to grow potatoes on sand, one needs a large amount of water and almost continuous applications of fertilizer and pesticides, because sand is not at all like the black gumbo soil of the Red River Valley, where Offutt farms started in the 1960s. Cass County land is also cheaper than the Red River Valley land that has been recently fetching over \$10,000 an acre.

Mike, with just a slight hint of emotion, described what happens when the wind causes over spraying of the various pesticides and fungicide applied by helicopters and drifts into his living area and how he is worried about his family and about his own wells becoming contaminated by the nitrates from fertilizer that trickle down and accumulate back into the aquifer. He explained how the continuous injection of liquid fertilizer into the ground through mixing the liquid fertilizer with the water spray from the irrigators, not only threatens drinking wells, but also kills off the healthy bacteria and organisms that contribute to the ability of soil to naturally support life, without the need for chemicals.

We next visited some homes near other farming operations where the homeowner’s wells have been tested and are now shown to have significantly more than 10 parts per million of nitrates, which is the Department of Health’s safe limit for drinking. These families must purchase bottled water for drinking and tooth brushing. They talked to us about how their lives have changed as a result of not having what most of us take for granted – clean water.

During the tour, Mike would throw out facts based upon his hours and hours of sifting through published reports by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) investigating the potential effects of center point irrigations practices, by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) reviewing ground water testing, and by the US Geological Survey who prepare hydrology studies of aquifer water levels, and any other official report he has been able get his hands on. Some of the random facts he shared during the tour that stuck with me and got me (and other members of our tour) concerned were:

- a) There are 444 currently operating center point irrigation wells in the Pineland Sands aquifer which underlie parts of Cass, Hubbard and Wadena counties. Owned or operated primarily by RD Offutt Inc., they pump in excess of 19 billion gallons of water each growing season. Next to Mike’s home, four miles from the shores of Ten Mile Lake, the DNR published reports indicate that the type of well used by his neighbor pumps approximately 1.2 million gallons from the aquifer each day it operates during the growing season.

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- b) An average family of four uses about 100 gallons per day of water for its personal use. (I got to thinking about this and after some calculations, determined that his neighbor is using about the same amount of water each day that the City of Brainerd might use in one day. As we walked back to his home, I looked back and tried to imagine almost 15,000 people living on that 160 acre plot.
- c) The price each permit holder pays for one of the 444 permits to use the water is a permit renewal fee of \$160 every five years. The permit allows each well to pump up to 49.5 million gallons of water each year.
- d) RD Offutt Inc. and its affiliates is the largest supplier of French fries to McDonalds, and the largest conventional potato producer in the world.
- e) The average yield at harvest is between \$200 and \$400 per acre for a farmer cultivating corns or beans. The average yield at harvest for potatoes is approximately \$4,000 per acre.
- f) Park Rapids found its municipal drinking water well contaminated above the 10 parts per million nitrate level, and in 2014, had to drill a new well, at significant cost, down to 189 feet, according to published news accounts. The MN Department of Health has recently found evidence of surface recharge to the new well, so nitrates are likely find their way in again.
- g) The state of Minnesota provides a hotline for you to call if you have been over sprayed by a helicopter or airplane applying chemicals on neighboring land. When you call the number, you may be able to find out what chemical you have been exposed to. That phone number is 1-800-422-0978, the MN Duty Officer.
- h) From the MN Department of Agriculture's Township Testing Program study of Hubbard Township, Mike learned that 19.2% of drinking water wells tested in 2017 were above 10 parts per million levels of nitrates and should not be used for human consumption.
- i) One of the chemicals that is often applied in industrial potato farming is Echo-720 (trademark name) which is an agricultural fungicide. The OSHA warning that accompanies the product warns: "Fatal if inhaled (Aerosol/Mist), Causes serious eye damage, suspected of causing cancer, may cause respiratory irritation (Aerosol/Mist)". (From OSHA Safety Data Sheet, at 29 CFR 1910.1200)

The week before the water tour, I hosted a gathering of my cousins at our home on Ten Mile Lake. Most of my cousins travelled from the Red River Valley where I was born. One of them operates a very large farm of over 3,000 acres of corn and beans. When I described to him what I had learned about the potato growing industry nearby, his first comment was, "You know, the soil over here in resort country is very fragile." As we talked, I found he was quite knowledgeable and interested about the move towards more regenerative farming techniques that are less reliant on chemicals, and I wish I could have had more time to talk to him.

I asked my friend Bruce Carlson, a scientist, who also was on the "water tour", "What do you think Bruce, is it possible the constant pumping is drawing down the lake levels?" He said, "From a causation point of view, it might be hard to prove at this time without more data. There should definitely be more study." This is why it is so significant that the day before the tour, Mike received word from the DNR that it accepted the most recent citizen petition and will commence an EAW, which is an Environmental Assessment Worksheet. An EAW is the beginning step in the process of trying to determine if there may be potential for significant effects on the environment from:

- a) Aerial spraying
- b) Deforestation
- c) Impact of Chemicals on soil
- d) Water Contamination
- e) Water overuse

Mike said from previous experience with Petitions he has filed with the DNR, he worries that the company might simply withdraw its permit applications, thereby stopping the EAW process. No doubt, he said, there will also likely be a fight over how wide or narrow the scope of review will be this time around. However, he remains optimistic.

I am not a scientist, or a farmer, or a homeowner next to an industrial farming operation. However, I believe there is a difference between academic or scientific knowledge, as opposed to experiential and common sense knowledge. From a common sense point of view, and from what I saw and experienced on the Water Tour, I do not think it is common sense to use 20 billion gallons of Pineland Sands Aquifer water each year, without answering some basic questions about long term effects. From a common sense point of view, I would like to ask the farmers whose livelihoods are at stake to join in on the search for answers. From a common sense point of view, I am really glad that when I said to my cousin, “You know, when I was a little kid, I used to visit your farm when your father and uncles farmed it and I did not see any center pivot wells, but I did smell manure on the ground.” Another cousin, who still owns farmland in the valley, responded with a common sense answer to my common sense observation: “Well we don’t have manure to spread around anymore because the animals are gone, and only a few farmers are beginning to irrigate, but many of the neighboring farmers I talk to up in the valley are beginning to worry about the harmful effects on the farm families of handling all those chemicals that get put into the ground.”

Let’s hope common sense will prevail and we can [work] together and continue the dialogue without becoming polarized, and search for answers without turning the problem into an economic problem, or a political problem, or an anti-this or anti-that problem. I believe it is possible to attack the problem, rather than attacking people, because this problem affects all of us, regardless of our personal interests, as well as deeply affecting our children and their unborn children.

I was particularly impressed with Mike’s final words. He said that there is no need to fight over who is right and who is wrong. He said that what we need to do is join together find a way to use a solution that will benefit all (including his neighboring farmers). Mike believes this solution lies in what is called “regenerative farming techniques.”

Celebrating the Past - Myra Damm, Historian

Historical Records

Historical records tell future generations who we were and where we have come from, and will tell the pulse of the congregation.

What does the historian keep in the files?

The annual and semi-annual reports are a good source of material. Committee reports from the past year or six months are condensed and easy to see what went on in the past.

Membership list, church directories, additions to the buildings, Special gifts, changes in church policies, different committee reports that are relevant to the church, Bell choir history, Women’s fellowship minutes, celebrations of anniversaries, pastors and how long each one served. Special holiday traditions and photos of church events, obituary notices, to name a few things of the things we keep.

Things we don’t save?

We don’t keep weekly church bulletins, Christmas cards, thank you notes, old receipts, old checkbook statements that are out of date and no longer relevant, too many copies of any historical records. One is enough, sometimes two are kept as they may get borrowed out. Correspondence regarding purchases that are made by different committees.

The church cleaning this past Spring brought out boxes of items to go thru, much of it is not something we keep, but I do come across a treasure that wasn’t in the records before.

I didn’t cover everything about history of the church but this might give you some idea of what is in the history files.

CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Fall is officially here - September 23, according to weather folks. Time to put dates on your calendars for Fall and Winter Programing with our Christian Learning Team.

We hosted a Community Picnic on Wednesday, September 18th in the Hackensack Community Center at 5:30 PM where guests of all ages were treated to hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, potato salad, chips, and many dishes to share. Requests for the great recipes are being pursued. Delightful desserts were also high points on the buffet table. Games for all ages were set up as well.

We had sixty-five people who came to enjoy the evening and receive information about our Community Meal Series. The next meals will be held in the Union Church Lower Level at 5:30 PM on Wednesday each week (unless otherwise noted). Details will be provided by Sue Johnson (218) 820-3870.

Many thanks to Sue, Karen, Scott, Mike, Jo, The STS Crew, Bob, Yo, Miho, Tom, Sarah, Bonnie and Crew, and many kids and families who did set-up and clean-up work. We would like to acknowledge the Pickleball Team who generously vacated the space early so we could set up tables, chairs, and needed equipment. All worked together so good food, fellowship, and fun could be shared. If you missed it this year, please plan to join us next year. We may have a different date so watch for it.

Friday Morning Out is up and running in the Lower Level. Parents or other caregivers may bring any preschool children to Union Church between 9:00 AM-Noon for free play, art, music, snacks, and more.

Two caring adults are always present so caregivers may use 'drop-in' child care at no cost for appointments, errands, or just socialization activities.

We do have room for more kids so please invite family and friends to join us for a visit. All welcome!

Movie Day has been moved to a new day on a trial basis. We are trying Thursday instead of Tuesday.

The September 26th movie was Green Book. Popcorn and movie at 3:30 PM with light snacks to follow. We will decide if this day/time works and announce October schedule accordingly. Please watch your bulletins and website.

Twin Cities 3M Visiting Wizards Trip is scheduled for October 4th and 5th! A group of elementary kids, teen assistants, and caring adults will be traveling to the Twin Cities to take part in a day of scientific events sponsored by the 3M Company at their Maplewood Headquarters. We will gather at Union Church Friday, October 4th, for an overnight trip prep. Plans are to depart Saturday, October 5th, before 7:00 AM to arrive in cities for the opening at Universe Hall. Gary Kwon is our 3M Contact and we appreciate all his efforts in making this event happen.

We will stay overnight at a host UCC church near the site and return on Sunday afternoon. This is our first Outreach Trip in recent years for area youth. Therefore, The Christian Learning Team will sponsor the cost of the trip from our Treasure Sale proceeds dedicated for Youth and Families. We will be doing a small mission project as well and do not want cost to be a factor in youth participation. Number attending is guided by 3M as many other elementary kids attend this event.

Parents and guardians have already received detailed info as names must be submitted to 3M no later than October 1st. Adults are very welcome to stay overnight Friday, to share in the fun without making the actual trip. Please contact Jo at (651) 274-2145 as soon as possible if interested. Exciting times!

Upcoming dates for your calendar:

Heart Of Christmas Program - Sunday, December 8th

Breakfast With Santa - TBA

Peace Concert - December 19

Youth may help with set-up Dec. 18.

More dates and experiences will be in the next Newsletter. Church website, Poster Board, and church bulletins will have items. Fall blessings to all families, friends, and the whole of Creation!

The Christian Learning Team



GAME NIGHTS

Join us on
October 6 & 20
at 5:30 p.m.
Bring a dish to share.



kokoro CORNER

Kokoro is Up and Running! by Kiki Carter Webb

Share your Story

"One of the things I am very excited about with Kokoro is the special project we are calling *Share Your Story*," says Linnea Dietrich, Vice Chair of the Kokoro Board of Directors. "We will be interviewing people who wish to tell their story, leaving a legacy of sorts, with advice and reflections, whatever is important to them to have recorded, for their family and friends. After the guided session using prompts mutually agreed upon, we will edit what the person has said and provide the purchaser with a beautifully packaged DVD. We see this as a heartfelt gift potentially from adult children to their parents and/or grandparents honoring their life and who they are. This to me is a 'soul project' which will also be lots of fun for everyone as we pass down the knowledge of one generation to the next."

Sabbastian Wilson-Webb, as recording engineer, is enjoying the process. After recording interviews with Mary Parrish and Dee Oliver, Sabbastian was impressed by the stories he heard. "It is interesting and insightful to hear the stories of people who have lived much longer than I have. There tends to be a lot of wisdom in the stories told, and despite the age difference, a lot of relatability." Proceeds from *Share Your Story* will be used to further the work of the Kokoro Center.

Performing Arts in 2020

We welcome your feedback! We are considering a variety of performing artists for 2020. We're wondering what type of music and/or theater the larger community might enjoy. Classical, Folk, Rock, Jazz, Country, World Music? Socially conscious plays? Comedies? Dramas? What would bring YOU out to a show? Let us know!

Music Lesson Mondays

Music lessons are available on Monday afternoons/evenings. Ages 3 -103+, woodwinds, brass, piano, acoustic & electric guitar, ukulele, melodica, electric bass, music theory, poetry, songwriting, live sound and home recording.

Upcoming dates:

October 10th/November 14th/December 12th - 7pm (6:30 sign up) - Express Yourself! Mark your calendar for the 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 shared by Union and Kokoro. Specialty coffees, teas and goodies available. Volunteer positions available.

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



For more info e-mail us at kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com or call Kiki at (218) 831-0942.



Men's Fellowship Breakfast Tuesday, October 1


Come one, come all, to our Men's Fellowship Breakfast on Tuesday, October 1st. We'll meet at 8:30 that morning, and enjoy a delicious social hour breakfast of French Toast, Bacon, fruit and orange juice. Our chefs are Tom Cox and Mike Gulbrandson. Mike's home-made real maple syrup will be our menu's special feature.

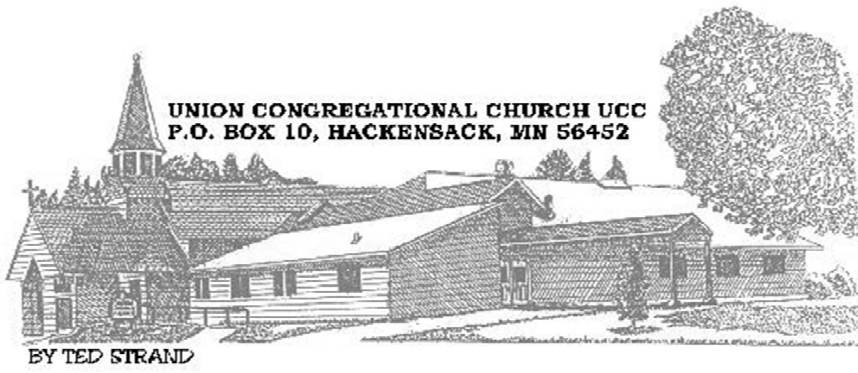


Following breakfast, at about 9:30, we'll travel to the beautiful Deep Portage Learning Center for an expertly guided tour of its facilities. Deep Portage is of interest to us in part because of its state-of-the art environmentally friendly solar and wood-burning energy technology. We expect the tour will end about noon.

Women are especially invited to join the men for this special event. You don't need to be a member of the church to attend. We welcome all! So please mark your calendars, and plan to come.

OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 8:30 Men's Fellowship	2 5:30pm—Community Table	3	4 9:00am—12:00pm Morning Out 3:00pm Youth gather for over-night and trip	5
6 Worship 9am Communion Fellowship 10am 5:30 Game Night	7 10:00am—11:30am Upper Room Bible Study	8 5:30pm Financial Stewardship Meeting	9 2:00pm—Justice Ministry Team Meeting 5:30pm - Community Table	10 1:00pm Women's Fellowship 6:30pm Kokoro Open Mic (Lower Level)	11 9:00am—12:00pm Morning Out	12
13 Worship 9am Fellowship 10am	14 10:00am—11:30am Upper Room Bible Study	15 3:00pm Pastor Torri at Birchview	16 5:30pm - Community Table	17 1:00pm—Church Council	18 9:00am—12:00pm Morning Out	19
20 Worship 9am Fellowship 10am 5:30pm Game Night	21 10:00am—11:30am Upper Room Bible Study	22	23 5:30pm - Community Table	24 3:30pm—Movie and Snacks	25 9:00am—12:00pm Morning Out	26
27 Worship 9am Fellowship 10am	28 10:00am—11:30am Upper Room Bible Study	29	30 5:30pm - Community Table 	31		



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FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED



We are looking for teams for our
Trivia Night
Saturday, November 2 at 5:00PM

We need 8 people per team and the cost
is \$10 per person. Watch the Bulletins
and church website for more infor-
mation or contact the church office.

2019

