



# 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  
Emergency Phone: (218) 507-1905



## JULY 2020

Notes from  
Rev. Torri Vande Zande

### "When is the church building going to open?"

I have heard that question a lot over the last few weeks, and to be honest I have asked that question to myself a lot too. Like many of you, I am tired (and a little cranky) that we cannot meet in person and worship together. I miss game nights. I miss Sunday mornings. I even miss committee meetings! Overall, I miss people. And I know you do too.

Our Council has wrestled with many questions over the past few months. Many of those questions cannot be answered because we do not have the input we need to make an informed decision. So, we do our best to rely on the advise from the leadership of the Minnesota Conference, we discern the advise from health officials and we cautiously move forward with a plan to re-open the church building.

Below is a document the Union Church Council agreed upon in our last council meeting. We are in "step 2" right now, but understand there are people who may still feel more comfortable in step 1. That is okay. This plan has been designed so people can become involved again at their own pace.

No one knows when we make the transition to step 3, we do not have dates or times, but we will continue to remain aware of the health of our community and welcome the direction of those who are leading our conference.

In Christ Alone,

Pastor Torri

---

**Union Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**COVID-19 Plan for Reopening the Church Building**  
**401 Lake Ave. E Hackensack, MN 56452**

In person worship in our sanctuary and other spaces within our church building requires a plan. In creating this plan, we also recognize that we must be flexible and willing to modify our decisions when circumstances change. Our plan will remain flexible and responsive to public health information and will be guided by our shared values.

#### **Union Congregational's Values Guiding Our Plan for Reopening the Building**

**Love for Neighbor** – We proceed cautiously and with social distancing measures to protect the safety and health of our community.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

**Sunday Worship at 9:30 A.M.**

**Communion: First Sunday each Month**  
**Coffee and Fellowship Following Service at 10:30 A.M.**

**Church Staff**

Pastor.....	Rev. Torri Vande Zande
Church Secretary.....	Sabbastian Wilson-Webb
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 July! I hope this finds you still social distancing and wearing a mask. It's still a crummy deal but greatly necessary in this ongoing pandemic. Please stay vigilant and be safe. We will be watching our Sunday worship service on video for a while yet. Every week it has gotten better and we thank all involved for their time and work in making it all come together. Torri has put a great deal of time, thought and work into the services and we all are grateful. I hope you are all watching.

Lots of things are going on at Union even though the building is basically closed. Church groups and committees are all welcome to meet in the Friendship Hall with groups of ten or less. They must social distance, wear masks and disinfect when they leave.

We have started the process of converting the Wook-Ness property to a Conservation Easement. This is the only way that we can keep the property undeveloped forever. Burton and Bruce Carlson realized that if and when something happens to Union and it is no more, the UCC would most likely sell the property. With the easement, Union will always be able to use the property for camping, hiking, Bible School, meetings and services. We are working with the Minnesota Land Trust and we can get grants to cover all of the fees, otherwise it is an expensive project. It will take many months to complete.

Our community Wednesday meals are done until fall. They have been eagerly received and appreciated. We thank Sue Johnson and Mike Bohanon for all the hours they so willingly gave to prepare the food for this worthy project. They filled many tummies and made lots of people very happy. Thank you!!

Well, the weeds are growing, the house needs cleaning, Stan needs supper, the ducks need feeding and I want a nap or a glass of wine...so must run. Wear that mask and stay safe, we'll be together soon.

Joni

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

July 1	Erin Fischbach
July 4	Gus Kaubisch
	Joanne Morén
July 5	Marian Wald
July 8	Bonnie Hiniker
	Fred Smith
July 9	Marissa Kaubisch
July 11	Bruce Carlson
	Rev. Torri Vande Zande
July 13	Barb Waldron
July 15	James Hoppe
July 16	Katherine Knutson
July 19	Bonnie Kundert Mullen
	Gracee Rudkin
July 21	Linda Ottman
July 25	George Strawn
July 26	Chris Hoppe
July 30	Gary Kwong



**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

**Access and Equity** – We create opportunities to participate so individuals feel comfortable, online and/or in-person, and will work to ensure experiences in both spaces.

**Social Justice** – We know COVID-19 disproportionately impacts people over the age of 65, people with underlying health conditions, people of color, and other marginalized populations. We also know that healthcare workers and public safety workers are at risk of this virus. We believe our plan helps protect our vulnerable members and neighbors.

**Service to Others** – We acknowledge that helping to keep our neighbors healthy is a part of our service to our community and how we can be an example of God's love.

**Radical Hospitality** – We continue to welcome people no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey and we will welcome them in any space (online or in person) while following social distancing guidelines.

**Connection and Relationship** – We value being in community together. We commit to continuing and expanding opportunities to worship, learn, and fellowship together.

**Transparency** – We will continue to consult scientifically-based documents, trusted public health officials, and ecumenical leaders to develop our plan for reopening our building and communicate to members and friends our plans.

We will regularly share information and updates to our members and friends and we place our trust in them to make the best decisions for themselves and their family as we move forward together.

**Step 1 – Stay at Home (Social Distancing is Observed)****Worship**

Our worship services are streamed on the church's Facebook page, YouTube, and our website ([www.unioncchackensack.com](http://www.unioncchackensack.com)).

**Education**

We continue to learn and grow through virtual classes over Zoom.

**Fellowship**

We connect socially through Zoom, phone calls, and cards.

**Committees**

We meet and do business virtually over Zoom.

**Step 2 – Be Cautious (Social Distancing is Observed)****Worship**

Our worship services are streamed on the church's Facebook page, YouTube, and our website.

**Education**

Small groups may meet in the Friendship Hall. Attendance will be 10 or less people. Masks need to be worn, and participants need to sit at least 6 feet apart. Tables, chairs and anything that is used is wiped down with disinfectant.

**Fellowship**

We connect socially through phone calls, cards and outdoor visits with one another while practicing social distancing. Fellowship can also happen in the Friendship Hall with groups of 10 or less.

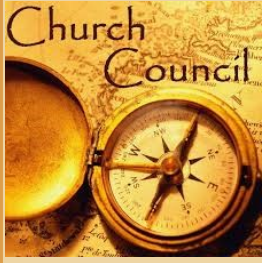
**Committees**

We meet and do business both in the Friendship Hall observing social distancing rules and virtually over Zoom.

**Step 3 – Be Vigilant (Some Social Distancing Relaxed)****Worship**

Our worship services are streamed on the church's Facebook page, YouTube, and our website.

Our sanctuary will be open with careful social distancing guidelines set up by the Worship Team. Some worship practices such as "Passing the Peace" and offering may be different.



## Council Minutes – June 18, 2020

**Present:** By social distancing at church: Pastor Torri, Linda Merritt, Jo Horak, Mike Bohanon, Joni Kum-pula. By zoom: Caryl Allan, Karen Holle, Heidi and Don Hoppe, Ron Merritt

Joni called the meeting to order. Pastor Torri offered a convening prayer. The agenda was approved as written. The minutes were accepted as written. Heidi/Jo

**Pastor's Monthly Report to Council: Coronavirus discussion:** Pastor Torri began by sharing her report entitled "The Church Continues in spite of Covid-19. This report lists church accomplishments and goals of future work for the church. She then discussed the Union Church Covid-19 Plan for Reopening the Church Building which she had sent to all Council members. The group felt that we were currently at Step 2 of the plan which is:

### **Union Church Covid-19 Plan for Reopening the Church Building: Step 2: Be Cautious (Social Distancing is Observed)**

**Worship:** Our worship services are streamed on the church's Facebook page, YouTube, and our website ([www.unionchackensack.com](http://www.unionchackensack.com)).

**Education:** Small groups will meet in the Friendship Hall. Attendance will be 10 or less people. Masks need to be worn and participants need to sit at least 6 feet apart. Tables, chairs, and anything else that is used is wiped down with disinfectant. A church member must be present in order for the group to meet.

**Fellowship:** We connect socially through phone calls, and cards and outdoor visits with one another while practicing social distancing. Fellowship can also happen in the Friendship Hall with groups of 10 or less. A church member must be present in order for the group to meet.

**Committees:** We meet to do business both in the Friendship Hall observing social distancing rules and virtually over Zoom.

**Council agreed that there will be no private or personal use of the church at this time. (no rentals) Council also understands that many people may not want to attend meetings or worship at the church. They are encouraged to continue to connect via Facebook, YouTube or zoom.**

**This plan was approved by Council on 6/18/20. Don/Ron/passed.**

**Sunday church service:** Pastor Torri feels that the current streaming of the Sunday services is going well. She would like for the Worship team to meet soon to work on a plan for in-person worship in the sanctuary.

**Woock-Ness Property:** Joni has been working with a team of people who are pursuing an environmental easement for the Woock-Ness property. This is to protect the land from development if the church folds. Joni will keep us informed as this process moves forward.

**Financial Stewardship Board:** Don indicated that our income for January – May of 2020 is significantly down from last year's income, but mentioned that our expenses are also down. The January – May income is \$64,996 and the expenses are \$57,789 for the same period which gives us a balance of \$7,288. We expect the PPP loan we filed for to help with expenses for the calendar year.

**Facilities:** Mike bought a new lawnmower which Johanna has been using and is happy with. Our two new furnaces are installed except for a little electrical work. Three trees that were hanging over the propane tank have been removed. Caryl volunteered her husband, Jim, to spray some poison ivy that is prolific near the church. Joni is working on getting rid of weeds that are growing by the church.

Ron is still working on the Solar Array Project with RREAL. Stan has upgraded the internet services in the sanctuary so that broadcast of church services can resume there.

**Personnel Board:** July semi-annual meeting: It is church custom to have a semi-annual meeting the fourth Sunday of July each year when we elect officers and ministry team members. This is also the time when the annual reports are prepared for each ministry team and board which are compiled for all to read. This year, due to the coronavirus, we will not have an in-person semi-annual meeting. Instead each team chair will prepare a report to be sent to Sabbastian by July 6. He will put the annual report together and will post it on our web-site. Anyone wishing a copy of the annual report can request one.

**Officers and ministry team chairs agreed to continue their positions for another year, as we will not be able to have an**

**election to consider new officers. Motion to that effect: Don/Ron/passed.**

Future leadership of the church: We discussed inviting several people to future Council meetings who are not currently involved in the leadership of the church. The invitation would be: “come and see what we do and see if you want to be part of this.”

Ministry Teams: Congregational Life: Torri reported that there have been no meetings of the group, but people are being called and seem to be doing well.

Worship: Streaming of services is going well. Several new people are being trained to help Pastor Torri with the Sunday services. The Worship team will meet to discuss the topic of in-person worship.

Women’s Fellowship: The group has not been meeting due to the coronavirus. Linda would like to have a small meeting in July for those that feel safe meeting in the friendship hall.

Men’s Fellowship: Ron would like to get the men together on July 7 at 9:00 A.M. for coffee, donuts, and discussion for all who feel comfortable.\_

Christian Learning: The Bible Study group has been meeting (5-6 people) outdoors at individual’s homes.

Community meal: The last Wednesday evening meal will be served June 25<sup>th</sup>. Eighty four people were served last week and \$257 was donated. The community meals will begin again in the fall. Jo Horak, Sue Johnson, Mike Bohannon, Don Hoppe, and Caryl Allan have made this program work.

Summer youth trip: Jo is hopeful that the youth can be involved this fall in another mission trip. The youth will have a table at the July and August flea markets to sell home-made crafts. Youth and their families will be involved in this fund raising.

Treasure Sale: Jo thinks that the sale will happen in August this year. She will prepare a plan whereby people visiting the sale or working at the sale can stay safe. This will be reviewed by Council at our July meeting. Jo will get the plan to Council members 3 days before the next meeting so we have plenty of time to review it.

Newsletter deadline: Tuesday June 23. After a closing prayer meeting was adjourned. Clerk: Karen Holle

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ANYONE WISHING TO ATTEND A COUNCIL MEETING IS WELCOME!!**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3****Education**

Small groups may meet in the Friendship Hall and virtually over Zoom. In person attendance will be 25 or less people. Social distancing is carefully observed.

**Fellowship**

We connect socially through phone calls, cards, outdoor visits and gathering in the Friendship Hall in a group of 25 or less and follow careful social distancing.

**Committees**

We meet and do business both in the Friendship Hall observing social distancing and virtually over Zoom.

**Step 4 – The New Normal (Social Distancing No Longer Needed)****Worship**

Our worship services are streamed on the church’s Facebook page, YouTube, and our website. Our sanctuary will be open to full capacity with all or most worship practices restored.

**Education**

In person and virtual educational opportunities will be available.

**Fellowship**

In person and virtual opportunities will be available.

**Committees**

In person and virtual options will be available to do committee meetings and business.





## CAESAR'S TALES

### "I am a Handsome Boy!"

Hi, my name is Caesar and I am the church dog! Last Wednesday (June 24th) was my "Gotcha Day"! For those who do not know what a "Gotcha Day" is, I would like to explain. This is the day my owner chose to adopt me! On that day, I became her dog and she became my human.

I asked my human to include my shelter picture in this article so you could see that even then... I was (and still am) a handsome boy! I am not trying to be prideful. Being prideful is Bandit (the cat's) job. He told me that this morning.

Anyway, people say that I am handsome all the time... so I believe it. I am a handsome boy! I think it is important to let creatures like me know good things about themselves. It makes them feel confident, fearless and good.

I wonder sometimes what humans call each other to make each other feel good. Lately, my human has been watching a lot of scary things on the picture box in the living room called the television. People do not speak to each other kindly or even try to make each other feel confident, fearless and good. They call each other names and yell at one another a lot. I do not know about humans, but if I was called bad names and yelled at a lot, I would feel insecure, scared and angry. Maybe that is what I am seeing on the picture box... just a lot of humans being scared.



I know I am not human, but I would like to suggest something. Maybe some humans can begin calling each other "handsome boys" instead of yelling bad names? Maybe if humans started calling each other nice names, then maybe other humans would begin believing what they are called.

I would like to start this idea! So... For every human who is reading this, "YOU ARE A HANDSOME BOY!"

Have a barky day,

Caesar (the church dog)



## Zoom Book Discussion Group

This summer we are offering a Zoom Book Discussion. It is a book called "Process-Relational Philosophy by Robert Mesle. George Strawn will be leading the discussion. Below is more about what the book offers:

### Summer Reading – Process-Relational Philosophy by Robert Mesle

The title of this book is rather dry, but the book itself is not. The author states the three goals of the book, which you might find interesting. First, sharing the philosopher's sense of awe and joy in wondering about this incredible, amazing world. Second, learning to think of the world as deeply interwoven, which can change the way we feel and act. Third, understanding that we need an adequate and coherent vision of the world, something that can engage people from many different scientific, cultural, philosophical and religious perspectives.

If you would like to join us in this discussion, we will begin meeting Tuesday, July 7th from 200-3:00PM over Zoom. You can purchase the book online through Amazon or other venues. Cost is about \$15.

Please sign up by emailing the church (unionucc401@gmail.com) or Pastor Torri (torrivz@gmail.com).

## Celebrating the Past – Myra Damm, historian

From 1907 when our church was formed Hackensack was growing, the church family was growing, but there was no building. On April 10, 1905 preliminary steps were taken toward a church organization. A paper to this effect was signed by fifteen persons, (I found another report that cited 21 persons) and in June of 1905 business meetings were held to elect officers to act until completion of church organization.

In September of 1907 the Good Will Gospel tent furnished by the Minnesota Congregational Missionary Society was pitched in Hackensack. Ten days of afternoon and evening meetings were held. Rev. Sheets was assisted by Rev. John E. Berry of Peoples Church of Brainerd and Rev. W. J. Conrad. At the close of the meetings it was decided to “perfect the church organization”. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, a meeting to incorporate was held. Officers elected with specific terms were: James Curo: deacon for 1 year, A.H Fleisher: deacon for 2 years, and in June of 1908 “The Council Manual” was adopted as the church guide. In June of 1908 Rev. Sheets represented the church at a conference in Duluth and was instructed to make application for admission into the Congregational Conference.

Between 1904 and 1917, Church meetings were held at the Otterson Hotel, the old frame school house and members homes. In March of 1914 it was voted to accept Lot 9 in Block 3 in the village of Hackensack for the church building. On June 16, 1914 plans were finalized to build a church and in September of 1914 the committee hired Guy Beardsley to oversee the work. The foundation was finished in 1915, and on April 10, 1917, the building was started.

I have not found information as to the population of Hackensack in 1917, only the town was growing, the logging industry was thriving, and the railroad was the big means of transportation. More on the new church next time.

## Thoughts From the Worship Ministry Team

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying beautiful summer weather. The gardens are growing like mad right now. We weeded our vegetable garden in the morning and returned in the evening to do some brush cutting, and I swear everything had grown an inch!

We continue to broadcast our services every Sunday. I hope you are able to attend these services. Our Pastor Torri is a marvelous preacher, and each of her sermons is better than the last. She brings the scriptures to life and skillfully shows how these ancient texts affect our lives today. Should you need assistance in setting up your computer to be able to see our services, please give me a call, and I will make sure you get help.

I know some churches are opening their doors for in-person worship, but Union is being very cautious on this subject. So many of our members and friends are in the most vulnerable category with regards to the COVID-19 threat, that it is our belief that we must be vigilant in protecting our congregation. The Council has approved a plan for reopening which you can find elsewhere in this newsletter. I believe Union is now at Step 2 of that plan. Rest assured, however, that we will move forward slowly and carefully and take every precaution to protect our members and friends. Most importantly, please protect yourself. Should anyone propose moving to less stringent precautions and you do not feel comfortable with those changes (no matter how longed-for!), please do what is right for you to keep safe.

May peace surround us all in these trying times.

Heidi Hoppe, Chair, Worship Ministry Team

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

We hope that this report finds you well and safe. Financially, Union Church is weathering the pandemic fairly well. Pledges and donations are coming in through mail and electronic funds transfers. Funds coming in last month were less than last year, but expenses were also down.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan was approved and the eight week period finishes on July 2nd. Some or all of payroll expense and some of the utilities expenses may be forgiven by this program

BFS continues to be concerned about donations by not having in-church worship. Many friends and members and visitors do not pledge, but donate at worship services. We broadcast our worship services on Facebook Live, YouTube, and on the Union Church website. We also have a Donate or Give button on our website, but we are not seeing the amount of giving for our on-line worship services that we hoped for. The Church Council and the Worship Ministry Team will decide when and how in-church worship resumes.

The Community Meal program finished the last Wednesday of June. It was a real success, a great program and ministry. Meals were prepared for about 80 persons a week, and the program was extended for about 6 weeks this year. Meals were picked up curbside or in some cases delivered by volunteers. The many donations and generous gifts supported this ministry.

How can you donate to Union Church, without being physically at Union Church? There are numerous of ways to do this.

1. Write a check and mail it to Union Congregational Church, UCC, Attn. Financial Secretary, PO Box 10, Hackensack MN 56452
2. Set up a scheduled electronic fund transfer payment of pledge or donation amount through you bank or credit union. Talk to them and fill out an ACH form and get it signed by the church.
3. Talk to your bank or credit union about Check Free or Bill Pay services that they offer.
4. Make payment of pledge, donations, or gifts from your IRA, 401(K) or other retirement saving plans.
5. Think about establishing a legacy gift to Union Church.

We hope that you stay healthy and safe and look forward to the time when we can return to being closer together. But we also know that this pandemic will have a continuing effect and ramifications on how we will be the church in the future. Let us be open to and embrace these changes.

Love and Peace to You,

Don Hoppe, Chair of the Board of Financial Stewardship

### FAITH IN ACTION JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith in Action for Cass County seeks **Part Time Data/Finance Coordinator** with a compassionate heart for service to others, to manage client records, reporting, bookkeeping, and financial duties. Position is open until filled.

Average of 24 hours/week  
Office in Hackensack  
Must pass background check

Send cover letter & resume to:

Theresa Eclov, Faith in Action, PO Box 512, Hackensack, MN 56452.

For copy of job description and more information call 218-675-5435 or go to [faithinactioncass.com](http://faithinactioncass.com).

### AND for the summer only:

Faith in Action for Cass County seeks **Nonprofit Media Intern** (Temporary/Summer Internship) to establish a media strategy and develop stories and visual media to communicate the work of Faith in Action. Position is open until filled and may last through September 2020.

Must be enrolled in a college or university program.  
Must pass background check.  
Average of 30-35 hours/week  
Office in Hackensack  
A reliable vehicle and valid driver's license are required.

Send cover letter & resume to:

Theresa Eclov, Faith in Action, PO Box 512, Hackensack, MN 56452.

For copy of job description and more information call 218-675-5435 or go to [faithinactioncass.com](http://faithinactioncass.com).



## CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Summer is here! Many things have changed since last Summer. Union Church had just finished a very successful Treasure Sale and was preparing for a wonderful three day VBS Program. Delightful!

This year we decided to move our Space Explorers VBS Program to next Summer. The extra time will enable us to build a bigger, better program. Special thanks are due to all those who agreed to set-up classrooms, teach Bible lessons, lead activities like music, art, outdoor explorations, swimming, kayaks, canoes, and the Deep Portage Day Program. People working at the Fishing Pier supported kids in a (for some) new experience with wit and wisdom. Remember that many of the disciples of Jesus were fishermen!

Finally, extra-special thanks go to the Meal Team who furnished Lunch for kids and adults with delicious meals, healthy snacks, and lots of creative options while doing it. Lots of fun too! Last year the Snack Crew blended both kids and adults to make good snacks happen. Just writing about it makes me smile (and a little hungry too)! Can't wait for VBS 2021!

Meanwhile, the Community Meal Program has ended for the Summer. Wednesday, June 24th. As of this writing final numbers are not in but we estimate serving almost 800 meals.

This Mission Project was begun as an extension of our Indoor Community Meal Nights. We use our Upper Level Commercial Kitchen, practice safe kitchen practices, and provide healthy meals for pick-up or delivery to all who wish to receive them. Due to creative menu planning/purchasing by Sue and Mike, prep/pick-up by Jo, prep/delivery Caryl, and delivery by Don it worked. Substitute drivers are Gardener Mary and Wendy. Thanks to all of you who supported this program for SIX EXTRA WEEKS with prayers, donations, and help as needed. We are very grateful for involvement of Pastor Torri and our Union Church Council in making this Christian Learning Project able to fill a need in our community. We served 60-80 weekly. All participants really made a difference in many lives. We will resume in early Fall. Thanks be to God!

Looking ahead, we hope to have two small fund raisers for more Youth and Families programming later this Fall. The Sacred Heart Church plans to hold two Flea Markets this Summer - Wednesday, July 8th and Wednesday August 12th. Families will have a donated table at both markets and offer Made In MN items to fund our October Mission Trip. All safety/health precautions will be observed.

Treasure Sale Status: Possible. At the June Council Meeting it was determined that if Christian Learning could provide a plan three days in advance of Council Meeting for a review and it was approved we would hold a sale in connection with Sacred Heart August Market. Treasure Sale would require modifications for our guests like Costco, Menards, and other stores/events. Numbers inside at one time may be restricted, masks required, and more. Final details are being discussed. This event funds several salaries/activities connected to our Youth and Families Program so prayers are asked for success of this sale. We will be accepting donations soon either way. Watch website for more information - we have people to help with drop-off/pick-up!

Monday Morning Bible Study has been gathering outdoors at different homes during Spring/Summer with great success. We use the Upper Room materials and other Bible resources. Prayers for support and guidance are always a part of this lively group. Please check with Bonnie for upcoming locations. Meeting runs 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Health safety practices are practiced and all are welcome!

In these challenging times please stay safe. Let your Light shine and have Hope in the future for all God's people and creatures. We are all in this together!

The Christian Learning Team

## The Church Continues in Spite of COVID-19

### WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED:

We have developed online services that stream live to our Facebook page, YouTube and website.  
 We have active bible studies, discussion groups and book discussion groups.  
 We have provided weekly community meals starting in March through the month of June.  
 Congregational Life has reorganized to provide personal connection through phone calls and outdoor visits.  
 We have decluttered a good portion of the church, but have a lot left to do. We are creating space for future ministry ideas and growth.  
 Sabbastian (our office administrator) is working from home and creatively serving from a distance.

### WHERE ARE WE GOING?

We will be purchasing a new computer for the church so we can continue to stream live.  
 We will be training more people on how to use streaming technology.  
 We are developing a plan to safely open the church building again for in-person worship.  
 We are actively pursuing a plan to protect Wook-Ness property while having it still be an asset to Union.  
 We will continue to learn more about white privilege and racism through discussion groups, books and training.  
 We will continue to seek out ways to help our sister churches in the Twin Cities after the destruction of some of their communities.  
 We will update the policy and procedure manual.  
 We will continue to de-clutter the church and create spaces for future ministry.  
 We will continue to look for leaders who are willing to serve on council and other leadership roles.

## **kokoro** **CORNER**

**Kokoro Corner – July 2020**

### **EXPRESS YOURSELF! OPEN MIC**

Express Yourself Open Mic starts back up this fall in the new online format. Audience members can attend the open mic via a Zoom email link. Performers can participate live via Zoom, or have the option of submitting a video of your performance. Share a song, read a poem, perform a short scene or show us your dance moves! Send us an email at [kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com](mailto:kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com) or call Kiki at (218) 831-0942 if you'd like to sign up to perform or would like to be in the audience. Performers are encouraged to have fun with costumes, sets and props, if the spirit moves you. Please contact us if you could use an assist with Zoom or with making your video. We're techies and we're here to help. :)

### **NEW KOKORO THEATER DEPARTMENT**

If you would like to plug into the new Kokoro Theater Department, you can gather with us via Zoom to help us plan for the future. Email [kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com](mailto:kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com) to sign up!

### **WE'RE ROCKIN' THE ONLINE VIDEO LESSONS AT KOKORO MUSIC SCHOOL!**

Video lessons are available from the comfort of your home. Piano, guitar, band instruments, voice and more. Lessons are offered using Zoom, Facebook Messenger Video, Google Hangouts or Skype. Your teacher can help you get set up! For more information call Kiki at (218) 831-0942. Lessons are \$25 per half hour, or \$240 per quarter. One time registration fee of \$30. Scholarships are available.

Hope you're having a great summer and stay safe!

Kiki

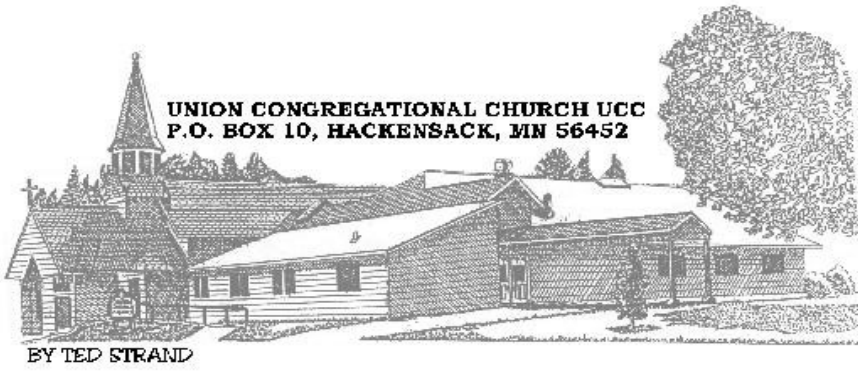


# Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN

# JULY 2020

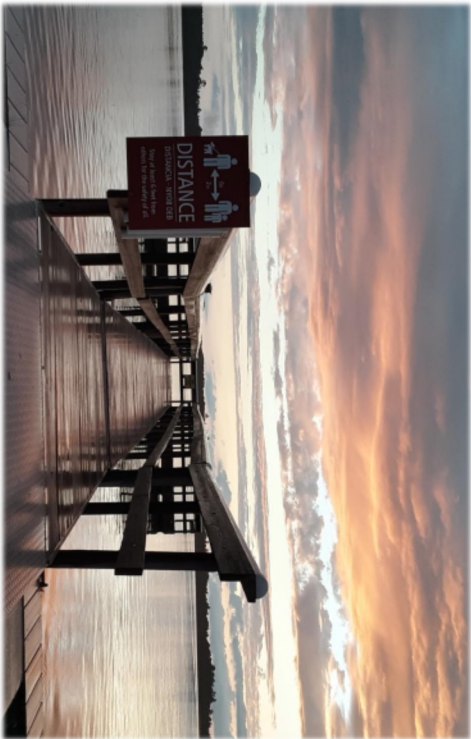
\* = Community Event held at the church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 4:00 Stories with Torri (Website/ Facebook)	2	3	4
5 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	6 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	7	8 2:00pm Justice Team Ministry Meeting (Zoom) 4:00 Stories with Torri (Website/ Facebook)	9	10	11
12 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	13 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	14 5:30pm Financial Team Meeting (Zoom)	15 4:00 Stories with Torri (Website/ Facebook)	16 1:00pm Council (Zoom)	17	18
19 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	20 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	21	22 4:00 Stories with Torri (Website/ Facebook)	23	24	25
26 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	27 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	28	29 4:00 Stories with Torri (Website/ Facebook)	30	31	



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HACKENSACK, MN  
PERMIT NO 5

FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED



The Church Continues  
\_\_\_\_\_

Plan for reopening inside

2020

~JULY~