

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 Toll Free: (888) 887-4820

Emergency Phone: (218) 507-1905



SEPTEMBER 2020

Notes from Rev. Torri Vande Zande

Love is Patient; Love is Kind

"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Several years ago, a new show came on television called Bridezilla. The name intrigued me so I began watching it. In this show, it brought the viewer through the before wedding preparation, such as; picking out the dress, the cake, the flowers... and they also showed all the drama that came with it. People treated one another so horribly. They were impatient, demanding, selfish... but when the wedding ceremony came, everything was perfect and beautiful! The music flowed, the vows were spoken and the little flower girl was adorable. But, then after the wedding it was back to chaos. People went back to yelling and being impatient, demanding and selfish.

I have to be honest... this show gave me so much anxiety that I needed to stop watching after only 2 episodes. It made my stomach hurt. And as a pastor who marries people..... it sickened me.

At many weddings, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 are often read. These are great verse for weddings because it gives many central truths to what love looks like. But the context of these verses is not about marriage. These verses are about how to get along with people who you are in disagreement with and fighting with.

To para-phrase Paul, he is saying this: If I just go through the motions without having love for others, then what's the point? It's empty. It's fake. Then Paul writes, "No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do... I'm bankrupt without love (The Message).

The Message goes on to translate these verses like this: (and please don't think about marriage when reading this).

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, or have a swelled head. Love does not force itself on others and never says, "me first". Love does not fly off the handle, or keep score of the mistakes of others. Love isn't happy when others go through hard times or takes pleasure in flowering the truth.

Love works through everything, trusts God always, looks for the best in every situation, never looks back but keeps moving forward and follows through to the end."

Church Staff Church Council Pastor......Rev. Torri Vande Zande Moderator.....Joni Kumpula Church Secretary......Sabbastian Wilson-Webb Financial Secretary......Don Hoppe Clerk......Karen Holle Treasurer.....Sheryl Kaubisch Bell Choir Director......Heidi Hoppe Ministry Teams: Organists......Sheryl Kaubisch Christian Learning.....Jo Horak Pianist......Kathleen Millberg, Barb Nish Congregational Life......Margaret Zieffler Custodian.....Sue Johnson Facilities......Mike Bohanon and Ron Merritt "Morning Out".....Sue Johnson Personnel......Church Council Worship.....Heidi Hoppe

There is a lot of truth in these verses that can filter through to us today. And I also believe that reading it within its context is very important.

In chapter 12 of Corinthians, the author talks about functioning like the body of Christ. Each person is part of the body and the body works as a unit. But what if the hand refuses to work with the eye? We would see something coming right at us and get clobbered in the face because the hand refused to protect it.

We have to remember this letter was written to an ancient church that was fighting about who to follow as a teacher, how to discipline individuals who are messing up, people who are bringing people to court rather than trying to sit down and figure it out. And they were being selfish and treating communion like it was a beer party. Some people were getting drunk while others were being excluded.

And in this context Paul writes, "Love is patient. Love is kind."

Over the past several months we have seen a lot happen in this world. 2020 has not been kind to humanity and it has brought out the best and the worst in us. Humanity can be filled with hate and revenge. It can inflict pain like no other creature on earth. Humanity can also be filled with love and grace. It can heal hurt like no other creature on earth. We have a choice my friends to make this earth a little more heaven like or a little more hell like. We can make a choice to use our words and actions to perpetuate more hate or we can use our words and actions to spread love. We have a choice in creating the kind of world we live in. Let's choose wisely.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The church landline is currently not operational. If you'd like to get in touch, please call the church at (218) 507-1905.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Men's Fellowship......Ron Merritt
Women's Fellowship.....Linda Merritt

September 1	Margaret Zieffler	
September 4	Phoebe Vosbeck	
September 11	Monica Lundquist	
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 29	Anne McGill	
September 30	Benjamin Hoppe	



MODERATOR'S NOTES

September greetings to all! Trust this finds you masked and social distancing again. It's a grind but we all know that it has to be. I do hate to see the summer coming to an end. However, I am glad that the Council moved up a step to twenty five units in the sanctuary on Sunday worship services. I really do think we can do this safely. The Worship team has worked hard to put it in place. I know Pastor Torri is happy to preach to real smiling faces.

I was truly sorry to hear that Pastor Judy has retired from St Paul's. She was truly an asset to the community and to Union. She will be greatly missed. Her warm smiles and laughter were enjoyed by all!

We have been up-dating our computer lists and hope everyone is staying connected to us. If you know someone who is not getting the newsletter and wants one please let us know. It's hard to keep our lists accurate.

We are very happy to have six new members, the Ericksons, Marilyn and Steve, the Dietrichs, Linnea and Gary, and the Webbs, Kiki and Greg. Do reach out to them when you can.

The Process Philosophy-Theology class led by George Strawn on Zoom has ended. It was fun, mind opening and educational. I think everyone truly enjoyed it. A new book class will start this month.

Well, guess it's time to run along, Stan is calling!

Let's talk, Joni

You Wanna Hear a Joke?



"Holy Humor" by Cal and Rose Samara

During a heated debate in the U.S. Senate, one senator told another to "go to hell". The senator under attack appealed to the presiding vice president, Calvin Coolidge, concerning the propriety of the remark. Coolidge, who had been idly leafing through a book, looked up and said, "I've been going through the rule book. You don't have to go."

- Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis

When Bill Moyers was a special assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson, he was asked to say grace at a dinner in the White House. Moyers began praying softly. Johnson interrupted him: "Speak up, Bill! Speak up!" Moyers, a former minister from east Texas, stopped in mid-sentence and without looking up replied, "I wasn't addressing you, Mr. President." - Anglican Digest

"More Holy Humor" by Cal and Rose Samara

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?" - Jim Reed

My wife was reading our two-year-old son, Elijah, the story of the Good Samaritan at bedtime. She got to the place where the lawyer challenged Jesus with a question. "And who is my neighbor?" My wife read the lawyer's question.

"I know!" Said Elijah. "Mr. Rogers!" - Paul Thigpen



COUNCIL MINUTES – AUGUST 20, 2020

PRESENT: By Zoom: Kiki Carter, Greg Webb, Linnea Dietrich, Gary Dietrich, Karen Holle, Ron Merritt, Linda Merritt, Tom Cox, Heidi Hoppe, Don Hoppe, Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

In person: Mary Parrish, Pastor Torri, Mike Bohannon, Jo Horak, Margaret Zieffler, Caryl Allan, Steve Erickson, Marilyn McKnight, Joni Kumpula

Joni called the meeting to order. Pastor Torri offered a convening prayer.

Receiving new members: Today six people joined the church at the Council meeting. They are: Kiki Carter, Greg Webb, Linnea Dietrich, Gary Dietrich, Steve Erickson, and Marilyn McKnight. Despite the reception of new members being accomplished during a pandemic, the short ceremony was meaningful for the new people and for the council members attending. The six new people left the meeting after the reception of new members was over.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved with one correction. Heidi/Tom. The agenda was approved as written. Caryl/Margaret.

Pastor's monthly report to Council: Pastor Torri gave Council members a written report discussing her current projects. She has been working with six people who are interested in joining our church and did so at today's meeting. She meets with the Congregational Life team regularly to discuss people that have been contacted and how they are doing. She began a woman's chat group this week and has been participating in a zoom book discussion. In September she will be co-leading a book discussion on the book, White Fragility. Sunday services are going well and each week a few people are allowed to attend wearing masks and social distancing. Torri is in the church Monday – Thursday for part of each day.

Financial Stewardship Board: Don Hoppe reported that July income was substantially below last year's July total. August income is looking good. Income for 2020 thus far is \$86,286 and expenses are \$85,119. The PPE loan of \$11,100 will be added to income when it comes through. Regarding the 2021 Stewardship Campaign, Don reported that 16 pledges have come in for a total of \$37,160.

Joni asked that Council receive a written financial report summarizing the first 3 quarters of 2020 when that can be provided.

Facilities: Ron reported that Ferrellgas is offering a slightly lower price for propane for the 2020-21 heating season. Everyone in the church group should be able to buy propane for \$1.15 a gallon.

Our church phone has been out for a few days. We are in the process of changing our phone and internet service at this time.

Personnel: Torri reported that she recently updated Sabbastian's job description as Church Secretary to more accurately reflect the work he is doing during the period that he works from home.

Ministry Team Reports: Congregational Life: The Congregational Life team is calling people who are "stuck" at home and is visiting in small groups with other folks. Many people are experiencing social isolation and sadness at this time. Joni encouraged us to call our friends so people know they are being thought of.

Worship: Re-Opening the Church Building Plan: The Worship Team has implemented the steps necessary to allow people to attend Sunday services in the Sanctuary. Bibles and Hymnals have been re-moved from the pews, and every other pew is roped off so that people can spread out during services. We have been allowing up to 10 family groups to attend the service each week. Since five people/groups are involved in putting on the service, this only leaves room for 5 other people or family groups. Council discussed increasing the number of family groups to 25 starting this Sunday, August 23. People coming to service must wear masks and must social distance. Mary Parrish, Caryl Allan and Margaret Zieffler volunteered to greet people and to keep them spread out as they find their seats in the pews. If necessary people can go to the Friendship Hall to listen to the service if the Sanctuary is too crowded. Heidi offered a motion: Starting August 23, we will allow up to 25 family units to attend our Sunday worship service. People must wear masks and sit 6 feet apart in the Sanctuary. Heidi/Linda/Passed.

Heidi and Torri will get a message out to the Congregation letting everyone know about this change.

Heidi also mentioned that the stand for the Bible is too heavy to move and she would like a replacement for that.

Men's and Women's Fellowship: The men and the women are starting to meet virtually and in small inperson groups. More info to follow.

Christian Learning: Bible Study continues to meet every Monday outdoors for now. Community Meals: Jo would like to begin serving community meals again beginning the second week of September (9/9). The upstairs kitchen would be used and the hours of service are 4:00-5:30. Everyone at the meeting is glad to hear this program will re-start. Youth program: Our youth will sell items next year at the Sacred Heart flea markets that will help support their mission trip. Jo would like to organize a youth get together this fall to see how the youth are doing. Scholarship ministry team: Sandy Tauber will join the team for the 2020-2021 school year.

Newsletter: The deadline is August 25 for the next newsletter.

Moderator: Joni has noticed that her grandchildren seem very depressed about the effect the corona virus is having on their lives. She asked that we each be thinking about the people we know that need calls and cheering up and that we reach out to them. She also encouraged us to think about the children in our lives who may need support.

New Business: Don would like to renew our membership in the Hackensack Chamber of Commerce for 2021. The cost of the membership is \$100 per year. Council approved this expense.

Meeting adjourned: Clerk, Karen Holle

Worship News

The church council recently voted to move into Step 3 of our re-opening plan while maintaining care for everyone's safety and health.

We will continue to stream our Sunday services on Facebook, YouTube, and on our website.

Attendance at services has been increased to 25 units (a unit is a family group; therefore, those sharing the same household count as a single unit).

Appropriate safety guidelines will remain in place:

- Greeters will monitor the traffic flow so physical distancing is maintained.
- Hand Sanitizers have been placed at the sanctuary doors. Feel free to use it when entering and exiting the building.
- Face masks are located at the sanctuary doors as well. Should you need one, feel free to take one.
- Offering plates have been placed at the sanctuary doors in lieu of passing the plates during service.
- Every other pew has been blocked off to indicate safe physical distancing.
- Should there be more than 25 wishing to attend Sunday service or should anyone feel uncomfortable in the sanctuary, the service will be broadcast to the Friendship Hall for the overflow. (Be sure to maintain safe physical distancing!)
- A recording or song leader will provide the music, and we will request that congregants listen to the hymns rather than sing along.
- We will perform the Passing of the Peace in sign language.

Additionally, sealed communion sets have been purchased so there is no handling of the elements.

Finally, EVERYONE MUST WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES. We care about each other and are mindful of keeping our friends and neighbors healthy as part of our service to our community and how we can be an example of God's love.



CAESAR'S TALES

I SEE CHURCH PEOPLE!

Hi! My name is Caesar and I am the church dog!

This past Sunday was very exciting! I went to church with my human like I always do. It was the day she stands in the large room called the sanctuary and talks to a little black box she calls a camera. Don and Heidi (who are my best friends) joined Sheryl, (who sits behind the noise box called a piano) and Caryl (who smells a lot like my dog friend named Ben) every Sunday morning with my human. During these days they talk to this black box camera and sometimes they howl while Sheryl plays the noise box. On these days, I usually lay down by Heidi or under the noise box for a nap.

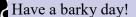
But this past Sunday was different! I showed up at church and all the usual humans were there. But, then something happened! People!!!! People happened!!! My human friend Mary (who always has treats for me), walked in the door! Then Margaret came in, then Gracee, then Dolly and Don! It was amazing! Mary leashed me and took me to the door so I could greet everyone coming in! I was so excited! Everyone smelled wonderful!



When things settled down, I got to sit with Mary in the long seats called pews. And I understand why they call them pews... they smell weird. I did my best to be patient during the talking and howling time. I laid on the floor under the pew and patiently waiting for the time I could sniff my people again.

There was a total of 18 humans in church that morning! That is the most humans we have had at church in months. My nose was working overtime trying to take in all the smells of my people and I loved it!

I have missed my people! I do not know where they have been or why they came back that day, but my little tale has not stopped wagging since. I hope I get to see all of them again this Sunday! My nose is ready!



Caesar "The Church Dog"

Note from Caesar's human: When Caesar is at church on Sunday mornings, he is on leash and controlled by a human. There is no need to worry about him running or knocking down children or adults.



Celebrating the Past – Myra Damm, historian

Growing the Church in the Early Years

When the church was built, Hackensack was a small town, but growing. Soon it had hotels, grocery stores, bank, cafes and various other businesses including a two room school.

Sunday School was introduced early on but had it's first superintendent in 1923. We are not sure what the age groups were but the records show the highest enrollment was in 1939 with attendance about 85. The Sunday school did its share by paying one half of the janitor's salary.

The first mention of the choir was in 1924 to 1928. Marjory Wentzel Woock was pianist for the church and Sunday School. During this time her mother, Mrs. Conrad Wenzel play at her home while directing and rehearsing the junior choir, which won first place at a convention in Brainerd.

In 1927 the church was reorganized under a new constitution. The Ladies Aid is the oldest organization in the church and it has most of it's business meetings in the historian files. Altho women had no vote in church business, they were raising money and contributing wherever there was a need. More on some of the things the church needed during the time between 1917, to the time of relocating in 1958.

CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Happy September! The times are changing and so are the leaves. A quick walk or drive in the countryside reveals a lot of beauty to be found.

Christian Learning has been so grateful for those activities we can share with each other during some difficult times. Here are a few:

Monday Morning Bible Study has been meeting outdoors all summer and have enjoyed it. We gather at homes with decks, patios, driveways, outbuildings and more. Coffee and conversation begins at 10:00 -10:30 AM. Upper Room Bible Study is 10:30-11:30 AM. Prayers and positive thoughts are always shared..

All are welcome to attend - please check with Bonnie for locations.

Community Meals will resume on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. We will begin serving from the Upper Level Commercial Kitchen on a drive-up/ delivery basis. Just drive up to the West Side Entrance for meal pick-up between 4:00 - 5:30 PM. Please contact Jo or Sue by Tuesday Noon at (651)274-2145 to reserve meals for Wednesday Night. Delicious meals are provided for young and old at no cost. However, donations for these hot, healthy meals are gratefully accepted. Menu listings will be offered the week before so food concerns may be addressed. We welcome all back for a meal and a prayer. Friendly faces and warm cookies available at Union Church for Wednesday Evening Community Meals!

Treasure Sale Prep for 2021 continues on a limited basis. Items may be donated by contacting Heidi and Cindy for special arrangements.

Some online sales will take place as appropriate before June, 2021. Please see sites given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Youth activities are being arranged around the various back-to- school dates. An outdoor event is likely. However, the early October Mission Trip to the cities is cancelled. As Union Church continues to reopen special events will be added.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all youth and families who are struggling with school start schedules, grade adjustments, sports practice, music, and art programs and more. Parents, we are with you as you face those daily challenges. Please speak to us about your needs. Resources may be available for you. We miss you all!

The Scholarship Team will meet in September to finalize our 2020 award ceremony. We are excited to present Sandy Tauber as a new member of this important Team. Welcome aboard, Sandy! Thanks to all who support this program for our church and world future through education!

Finally, we would like to express a note of gratitude to Pastor Judy of St. Paul's Lutheran who is retiring soon. She has taken a large part in the Union Church VBS Program, Heart of Christmas, and other activities over the years. We will miss her and wish her well in new endeavors. Thanks for your care and support of youth and families in MN communities!

The Christian Learning Team

Women's Group – September 15 – Just Chatting

Tuesday, September 15th, 10:00–11:00AM meet under the tree outside or in the Friendship Hall. (Please contact Torri at (563) 320-5360 if you would like to Zoom in.)

Please wear your mask, and there will be social distancing.

Men's Group Meeting 1st Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday 9:00AM

Men's group will get together the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays to visit face-to-face in the Friendship Hall or Zoom in on our conversation. Contact Don Hoppe if you would like to come.

NEW MEMBERS



LINNEA AND GARY DIETRICH

We are very excited to be joining Union Congregational Church as you can see from our picture! A little about us...Gary was born in Wisconsin and grew up in Rosemount MN. Linnea was born in Minneapolis and grew up in Little Falls MN. We met while we were sophomores at the U of MN. We moved to Man Lake in 2001. This is our 12th house and the longest we have lived anywhere. Gary worked for Unisys Corp and we moved quite often including a 2.5 year stint in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

We both love our Hackensack community. Likely you know Gary as he is the chair of the Hackensack Lakes Area Community Foundation Board and also the current co-editor of Lucette's Gazette. You might know Linnea from when she had a therapy clinic on 1st St. called Birch Lake Counseling or maybe in more recent years as "the bread lady" because she bakes organic bread in a wood-fired oven and sells it at various local events. Gary always laughs when people say, "You must be the bread lady's husband!"

We look forward to getting to know our new church and the church community as we discern where we can plug in and be helpful.

STEVE ERICKSON AND MARILYN MCKNIGHT

Steve Erickson and Marilyn McKnight recently joined the church having been attending since they first owned their Ten Mile Lake Home in 1996. They are pioneers in the development of the mediation profession since 1977 when they opened the third private mediation practice in the USA. They have dedicated their lives to constructive conflict resolution practices, and have opened a practice in Hackensack since making this their primary home in March 2020.





KIKI AND GREG WEBB

Kiki Carter and Greg Webb moved to northern Minnesota in the summer of 2000. They made a home on the shores of Traders Bay, with their sons Richard and Sabbastian. Kiki and Greg love to garden, forage in the forests, and enjoy the natural beauty of the Minnesota Northwoods. They often seek out sunrises in the early morning and search the sky at night for their favorite constellations. Kiki and Greg are performing songwriters and share music under the name *dancing Light*. Along with their son, Sabbastian, they present an annual peace concert at Union Church at the time of the winter solstice. Over the years, they frequently attended Union, contributing music to a variety of occasions and as guests to the Sunday services. Kiki and Greg are delighted to become "official" members of the Union Church family.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Notes from the Board of Financial Stewardship

We hope that this report finds you well and safe. Summer is almost over, but the heat and humidity are still with us. Looking forward to the cooler, drier days of September.

August was Stewardship Month at Union Congregational Church, and we sincerely thank everyone that has pledged! If you haven't yet made a pledge, please do so, as it is very important for planning for 2021. If you need a pledge card or more information, please call Don Hoppe or email the Financial Secretary at finsec.ucc@gmail.com . Please, prayerfully consider making a pledge to support our church and community, and be as generous as possible.

As of the writing of this report, we have received 21 pledges for a total of \$58,160. We hope to receive over 40 pledges and our goal is \$120,000.

July revenue was down, but August was up again. The church has also increased the number of persons that can come to in-church worship, and it is good to seeing others in worship.

Strong giving by non-pledging units and completion of pledges by pledging units during the period of September to December, 2020 will be essential to our ability to meet our revenue projections for this year.

We continue to broadcast our worship services on Facebook Live, YouTube, and on the Union Church website. We 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

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

Write a check and mail it to Union Congregational Church, UCC, Attn. Financial Secretary, PO Box 10, Hackensack MN 56452

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.

Talk to your bank or credit union about Check Free or Bill Pay services that they may offer.

Make payment of pledge, donations, or gifts from your IRA, 401(K) or other retirement saving plans.

Think about establishing a legacy gift to Union Church. If you are interested in planned giving options open to you, please let us know.

We 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.

Christ's Love and Peace to You,

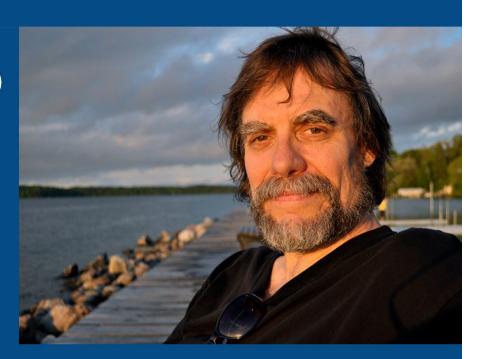
Don Hoppe, Chair of the Board of Financial Stewardship

KOKORO CENTER FOR MUSIC & THE PERFORMING ARTS presents

POETRY OPEN MIC

TUESDAY OCTOBER 20th 7pm

FEATURED POET GREG WEBB



Poets of the Minnesota Northwoods & Audience Members

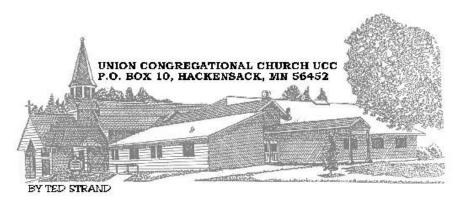
To register call (218) 270-5648



or email kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com

Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN SEPTEMBER 2020

SATURDAY 5	12	19	26	
FRIDAY 4	7	18	25	
THURSDAY 3	1.00pm Congregational Life	17 1:00pm Council (Zoom)	24 1:00pm Fiber Arts*	
WEDNESDAY 2	4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	16 9:00am Men's Group 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	23 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	30 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal
TUESDAY 1 9:00am Men's Group	5:30pm Financial Team Meeting (Zoom)	15 10:00am—11:30am Women's Group	22 2:00pm—3:30pm Book Discussion—White Fragility (Zoom)	29 2:00pm—3:30pm Book Discussion—White Fragility (Zoom)
MONDAY	7 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	14 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	21 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	28 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study
SUNDAY	6 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	13 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	20 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	27 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)



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FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED

Welcome to our new members!

Get to know them on page 8.

2020

