



# 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

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## SEPTEMBER 2021

### Notes from Rev. Torri Vande Zande

Summer is slowly fading away, and fall is rapidly approaching. Personally, I welcome the cooler weather and look forward to the leaves transforming into their glorious colors. I anticipate a slowing down of activities and settling in to a rhythm of life where I can breathe a bit more easily and have my soul center a bit more.

We sadly say goodbye to some of our summer friends who have enriched our lives, challenged our ideas, and helped us grow as human beings. Summer friends, you are greatly missed when you are gone. But we send you out with our love and blessings. Go light the world with your gifts and talents. May God work in you, through you, and around you. And may you return to us soon so we can rejoice with one another, share stories, and tell of how God has worked and moved in our lives.

For those who remain in Hackensack over the fall and winter seasons, we have a lot to do, my friends. This fall there are a number of activities we all can get involved in and invite friends to:

1. Wednesday night meals starting Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Friendship Hall.
2. Men's Fellowship meets the first Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in the Friendship Hall.
3. Women's Fellowship meets the second Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in the Friendship Hall.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Updates

We have new office hours due to administrative adjustments.

New hours are as follows:

Monday	9:00am-12:00pm
Tuesday	9:00am-12:00pm
Wednesday	9:00am-12:00pm
Thursday	9:00am-12:00pm
Friday	Closed

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

Communion: First Sunday each Month

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor.....Rev. Torri Vande Zande  
 Office Administrator.....Linda Ottman  
 Secretary/Tech.....Sabbastian Wilson-Webb  
 Financial Secretary.....Don Hoppe  
 Treasurer.....Sheryl Kaubisch  
 Bell Choir Director.....Heidi Hoppe  
 Organists.....Sheryl Kaubisch  
 Pianist.....Kathleen Millberg, Barb Nish  
 Custodian.....Sue Johnson

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Moderator.....Mike Bohanon  
 Vice-Moderators.....Marilyn & Steve Erickson  
 Clerk.....Karen Holle  
 Board of Financial Stewardship.....Don Hoppe

Ministry Teams:  
 Christian Learning.....Jo Horak  
 Congregational Life.....Joni Kumpula  
 Facilities.....Mike Bohanon and Ron Merritt  
 Personnel.....Church Council  
 Worship.....Heidi Hoppe  
 Men's Fellowship.....Stan Kumpula  
 Women's Fellowship.....Joni Kumpula  
 Outreach.....Karen Holle  
 Treasure Sale.....Cindy Gulbrandson

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4. Monday Morning Bible Study meets at Ellie Nelson's home at 10:00 a.m.
5. Wednesday Bible Study will start Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> in the church library with a Zoom option.
6. Wednesday Evening Book Study will begin Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> in the church library with a Zoom option. The book is "Neither Wolf Nor Dog" by Kent Nerburn. We will meet every other week.
7. Game Night is every other Sunday night at 5:30 p.m. in the Friendship Hall. Bring a snack to share. September nights are the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>.

If we feel like it is too risky to do any of these activities, we will adjust our ways to protect one another. We will continue to move forward in worship, in community, and in service.

So, let us roll up our sleeves and get to work! God is working and moving, and I am looking forward to seeing how God uses Union to impact our little corner of the world.

In Christ Alone,  
 Pastor Torri

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| September 1  | Margaret Zieffler |
| September 4  | Phoebe Vosbeck    |
| September 13 | Don Hoppe         |
| September 14 | Ed Curo           |
| September 16 | Mike Bohanon      |
|              | Steve Merritt     |
| September 18 | Kathleen Millberg |
|              | Lee Moren         |
| September 29 | Anne McGill       |

*Happy Birthday*



Karen Holle, Sabbastian Wilson-Webb, and Linda Ottman, Editors



**Remember...YOU are invited to  
Leech Lake Culture Alliance's  
2nd Annual Autumn Equinox  
Unity Day Celebration**

**POTLUCK EVENING**

**At Onigum Community Center**

**8826 Onigum Road NW**

**Tuesday, Sept. 21, 5:30—7:30pm**

All welcome! Feel free to bring a dish  
to share...For info click on [llculturealliance.org](http://llculturealliance.org)



**POTLUCK EVENING IN ONIGUM**

The Leech Lake Culture Alliance is inviting you to a Potluck on Sept. 21st. It is our goal to gather white and Native American people together to break down walls, get to know one another, and build friendships with each other. All are invited. Bring friends and family for a night of great food, friendship, and fun!

# Upcoming Events

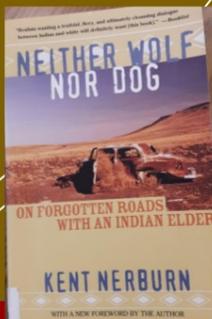
## Book Study Sept 15-Nov. 10th

Every other Wed. @ 7:00 p.m.  
In the church library  
(There will be a Zoom option)

"Neither Wolf Nor Dog" by Kent Nerburn

- Sept. 15th - Introduction; Chapters 1-5
- Sept. 29th - Chapters 6-10
- Oct. 13th - Chapters 11-15
- Oct. 27th - Chapters 16-20
- Nov. 10th - Chapters 21-26

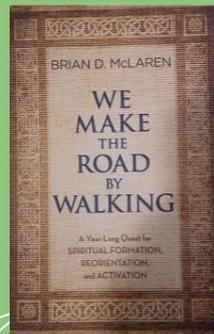
If you would like to join us as we learn from one another, please email the church at [unionucc401@gmail.com](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com).



## Bible Study

Wednesdays Starting  
Sept. 15th @ Noon  
in the Church Library  
(Zoom will be an option)

(Bring a Bible. If you don't have one, we will provide one for you.)



We will be using Brian McLaren's book, "We Make the Road by Walking" as a guide for us. We have 6 books available to use or you can purchase your own if you would like.

For more information, call the church office at 218-675-6300.



# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## August 19th, 2021

**PRESENT:** Stan Kumpula, Joni Kumpula, Heidi Hoppe, Don Hoppe, Pastor Torri, Tom Cox, Mike Bohanon, Karen Holle, Sue Johnson, Mary Parrish, Caryl Allan, Jo Horak

Mike Bohanon called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Pastor Torri offered a convening prayer. The agenda was approved with two additions. Stan/Mary. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written. Tom/Heidi

**Pastor's Monthly Report:** Pastor Torri will be starting a new book study on September 15. A list of possible books has been put together for review by anyone interested in looking it over. She is also planning to start a Bible Study in September based on Brian McLaren's book, "We Make the Road by Walking."

Pastor Torri requested that office hours at church be Monday through Thursday from 9 – noon instead of from 9 – 2 those days. She will cover on Monday, and Linda O will cover T – Th. Torri wants to be free to do other things from noon – 2 four days a week and not to have to be in the office. This motion, to change office hours from 9-2 four days a week to 9-noon four days a week was passed by Council. Tom/Stan. A new sign will be made for the church door.

**Board of Financial Stewardship:** Don reported that the church's donation/giving for the rest of 2021 may be low for meeting the budget. Less than projected non-pledge giving and non completion of pledges is a concern. At this point all boards except Facilities are under budget. The August mission is Stewardship. At this time we have received 11 pledges for a total of \$26,215 for 2022.

**Facilities Board:** Mike reported that a few repair requests have been received by the Board of Facilities and have been taken care of. Kerry Swenson is very handy and has agreed to help with future church maintenance projects. A drop box has been ordered and received and will be installed outside the north door of the church for dropping off small items. Cindy and Heidi have been weeding outside the church and welcome help with the project.

**Personnel Board:** Pastor Torri reported that Sabbastian and Linda will now be equally splitting the 20 hour per week office secretary's job. This will allow Linda to be in the office from 9:00 to noon Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week.

**Ministry Team Reports: Congregational Life:** Joni reported that this team will meet the fourth Thursday of each month from 9:15 – 10:15. The team is calling people who might be in need of support from the church. Karen reported that she and Don are working on a new directory of members and friends that can be distributed. Mike would like to see a directory with pictures. No one volunteered to take on that task. Karen also reviewed a list of new people who are attending church at Union so that we know "who's new in the pew."

**Worship:** Heidi is concerned about the condition of the Altar Bible which is falling apart and needs to either be replaced or repaired. In the meantime we will use a Bible that belongs to Torri for the Altar Bible.

The Minnesota Conference has sent out guidelines that they will be following as a result of the recent resurgence of Covid-19. The Conference is reinstating the use of masks and social distancing at their events and will not be serving food at events that are less than 4 hours in duration.

Council talked about whether we want to make masks mandatory for church services and whether we want to continue to have social hour after worship. We agreed that at this time we will encourage masks but will not require them in-

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side the building. Because coffee hour is so important to the congregation, we will continue to have coffee and fellowship after services. People need to decide for themselves if they are comfortable having coffee and conversation with others.

Women's Fellowship: Joni felt the housewarming party at Torri's new house was really nice. This event was sponsored by the Women's Fellowship. The next meeting will be in September and will include a fun activity.

Men's Fellowship: Stan reported that at the last men's fellowship meeting Gary Wadzink presented information on TRIAD which was very informative. Stan is working on presentations for future Men's Fellowship meetings.

Christian Learning: Jo talked about the next Christian Learning event which is Adult and Teen Challenge on August 29. After the event there will be a brunch served in the Friendship Hall. Anyone interested in helping prepare the food on August 28 or serving on August 29 will be welcomed.

Morning Out: Sue Johnson would like to start the Morning Out Program up again on September 10. She and Donna Foust are willing to work as unpaid volunteers for the month of September while we see if there is community interest in the program. Council agreed to this proposal as long as background checks are in place for the adult volunteers.

Community Meal: The Community Meal is scheduled to begin again on September 8 at 5:00. Food will be prepared in the upstairs kitchen, and people will be encouraged to sit in family groups in the Friendship Hall. People can also come into the church to request a take-out meal, but we will not be able to bring food to people's cars.

Justice Ministry Team: Tom reported that the Joy Persall forum went well a few weeks ago. Tentatively September 12 is being held as a possible forum for the Leech Lake Culture Alliance, but Tom is not sure if that will happen. The focus of the Leech Lake Culture Alliance is to develop friendships between the Native American and White communities. A potluck is being sponsored by the Culture Alliance on September 21. It will be held at the Onigum Community Center, and we are all being encouraged to attend.

Outreach: Karen reported that the July mission for Paws and Claws went well. One hundred and fifty dollars and a trunk load of food, toys, and blankets were taken to the shelter. Staff at Paws and Claws were very pleased! The mission for August and September is Church Stewardship.

Moderator: Mike is encouraging people to get their reports out for Council meetings several days early so that the meetings can move more quickly. He does not want people reading their reports at the monthly Council meetings.

Old Business: Streaming church services – Don reported that the technology team has determined how to improve the quality of the streamed church service. Next, they will order the equipment needed and put the new system together. \$9,000 was approved by Council for this project with \$3,600 already having been spent. We discussed giving Mike Schmidt, a friend of the Kumpulas, a gift card for helping us with this project.

New Business: Pastor Torri is working with Chris and Kerry Swenson on a new Policy and Procedure for Youth and Vulnerable Adults. A rough copy of the new policy will be available for discussion at the September Council meeting.

Executive Committee: Our current Constitution describes the Executive Committee as consisting of: The Minister, the Moderator, the Clerk, and the Vice Moderator. A motion was offered to include the Chairman of the Board of Financial Stewardship to the Executive Committee. Joni/Heidi. This motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned. Torri offered a Benediction. Notes by Karen Holle, Clerk

## THROUGH KODA'S EYES



Hi, my name is Koda. I am the “Church Dog” (In Training). My human says that I am almost ready to be a full-fledged Church Dog, but I have to learn NOT to jump on people when I greet them.

Last week I got to practice a lot of NOT jumping during something called, “Game Night”! Usually we have “Game Night” at church, but this time we had it at my house!

First, this name, “Game Night” confuses me because I did not see anyone playing any games that I know! They did not play fetch, they did not play chase, they did not even play tug! So, I figured they were playing some sort of weird human games.

Human games do not make sense to me. They sit around, usually in a circle of some type, bark at each other, move some small toys around on the table, and then laugh. No running, no wrestling, they do not even get to chew on all the toys! They just move them! But one thing I notice... they seem like they are having a lot of fun! And I like that!

Since I could not play any of the games (because apparently you need to speak human and have thumbs), I decided to do what I do best... BEG! I may not have been able to play games, but boy did I eat well!

So, if you ever want to come to a “Game Night” and feed me, please do! I would love that! You can even sit in a circle, bark at some other humans, and move some toys around if you want. But just in case, I will bring one of my toys so you and I can play fetch, chase, or tug.

Barks and Wiggles,

Koda, “Church Dog” (In Training)





Koda got a very special birthday cake as the Church-Dog-in-Training!  
Looks yummy!



Pastor Torri's Housewarming and Kitchen Shower

## CELEBRATING THE PAST

*Myra Damm, Historian*

### Progress!

In 1994, there were additions to the offices, bathrooms, elevators, basement, music room, and storage. This allowed more room for social gathering, much needed Sunday School rooms, along with the music room. Expansion was so necessary.

The 1999-2001 addition finished off the church as it looks today, with the addition of the library, fellowship hall, bathrooms, lower level music room enlarged, shower, storage, furnace room (did you know that there are nine furnaces in the building?), and a multipurpose room.

The community had experienced a steady growth of people moving into the community, and the church benefited as well. There were so many summer residents who became part of the church family that an associate membership was created, and they became a big part of the church family.

The additions involved much planning on the part of the committees, but they were done with much thought as to what would be best, costs were carefully considered, and we now have a "whole" building. We are grateful to all who took part in making this happen.



Any fans of cribbage? Nothing like a classic on Game Night!



How about Catan? It's a favorite of one of our editors... But which one?

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### Notes from the Board of Financial Stewardship

As we approach September and our fall season, the nights are cooler and the days not as hot. We also have had some rain which makes us and nature happy.

In August, we began our Stewardship Campaign for 2022 with the theme "The Journey from Gratitude to Generosity." We continue the campaign into September.

We would like to thank Caryl Allan, Steve Erickson, and Joni Kumpula for sharing Stewardship Moments during worship on the last few Sundays.

As of the writing of this article, we have received 15 pledges for a total of \$33,235. We thank everyone that has pledged so far. However, last year at this time we had received 23 pledges. We hope that you will prayerfully consider what Union Church means to you and this community, and pledge generously. We would like to have the pledge cards in by September 26. If you have misplaced your pledge card, please contact the church or Don Hoppe at 675-6265 or 218-839-4341 for another one.

The Board of Financial Stewardship in its report to the Church Council at the August meeting noted that August income will be significantly less than last year and will continue to be behind the 2020 level. Donation/giving for the rest of 2021 may be low for meeting the budget, and less than projected non-pledge giving and the incompleteness of current pledges are a concern.

Christ's Love and Peace to You,

Don Hoppe, Sheryl Kaubisch, and Caryl Allan - Board of Financial Stewardship

## NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting cooler - fall is in the air. It's usually a beautiful time of year, and I hope it will be again this year. However, with the drought, the trees may not be as gorgeous as some years. We'll just have to wait and see!

After a busy summer, things will begin to slow down a bit. We're still a vital and active church however.

- Game Nights - Every other Sunday night at 5:30. September 5 is our next gathering. We had a wonderful time at Pastor Torri's house in August. Thank you for inviting us to your lovely new home!
- Bell Choir - The bell choir rehearses every Wednesday night from 5:30 - 6:30 and performs from time to time. We're hoping the new video and sound equipment the church is acquiring will make it possible to perform in person rather than recorded. Our fingers are crossed.
- Vocal Choir - We have begun to perform occasionally. It is always a joy to have them be a part of the Sunday service.
- Special Music - We continue to welcome members and friends to worship who share their music talents. Many thanks to Dick Kimmel, Barb Nish, and Mimi Carlson who performed recently during our service.

We are also a vital and active part of the community.

- Leech Lake Culture Alliance potluck dinner at Onigum Community Center on September 21 - We are invited to join our neighbors to get to know them.
- Booya - Faith in Action for Cass County is hosting their annual Booya Dinner at Union. It will be a drive-by meal again this year. The soup is delicious!
- Hackensack Dog Park - Pastor Torri is one of the organizers, and they have been a presence at many local events this year selling homemade treats, dog bandanas, and shopping bags for dog lovers.
- Hackensack Walking Club - Join me to get some fresh air and moderate exercise, a good thing in these days of pandemic caution. Gather at Soulshine Coffee, the new coffeehouse in Hackensack, at 9:00 on Thursday mornings.

In August the Council discussed changes to the precautions taken during worship. It was decided to continue as we have been, with social distancing, voluntary masking, and holding coffee hour.

Hope to see you in worship!

The Worship Ministry Team - Heidi Hoppe, Sheryl Kaubisch, Gracee Rudkin, Caryl Allan, Mary Parrish

# ONGOING EVENTS



## **Women's Fellowship**

Thursday, September 9th at 1:00 pm in the Friendship Hall.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 218-675-6300 or email the church at [unionucc401@gmail.com](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com).



## **Men's Fellowship**

Tuesday, September 7th at 9:00 am in the Friendship Hall.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 218-675-6300 or email the church at [unionucc401@gmail.com](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com).



## **Coffee Hour on Sunday Mornings**

Did you know we have coffee hour after each and every service? Come and meet some new and old friends on Sunday mornings. Our treat.



## **Game Night**

September 5th and 19th at 5:30-8:00 pm in the Friendship Hall.

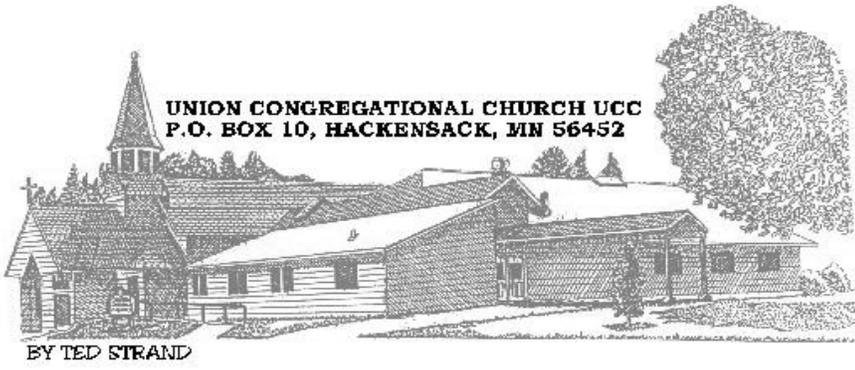
Bring a snack to share!

Bone Builders\* 1:30 pm -2:30 pm  
Every Monday and Friday

# Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN SEPTEMBER 2021

\* = Community Event held at the church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am Coffee Hour 5:30 Game Night	LABOR DAY 6:00pm AA Meeting*	9:00am Men's Group	5:00pm Community Table	5:00pm Countryside Co-op Annual Meeting*	1:30- Bone Builders *	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	10:00 Bible Study 1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*	5:30pm Financial Board Meeting	12:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm Community Table 7:00pm Book Study—Neither Wolf Nor Dog	1:00pm Church Council	1:30 Bone Builders *	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	10:00 Bible Study 1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*	5:30pm Potluck Evening at Onigum Community Center*	12:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm Community Table	1:00pm Fiber Arts*	1:30 Bone Builders * 5:00pm FIA Booya Dinner	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 5:30 Game Night	10:00 Bible Study 1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*		12:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm Community Table 7:00pm Book Study—Neither Wolf Nor Dog			
26	27	28	29	30		
9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 5:30 Game Night	10:00 Bible Study 1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*		12:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm Community Table 7:00pm Book Study—Neither Wolf Nor Dog			



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**FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED**



**2021**

New Book Study:  
"Neither Wolf Nor Dog"  
Community Table returns  
September 8th!

**THE UNION NEWS**