



# 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

<https://www.unioncchackensack.com> Toll Free: (888) 887-4820  
Email: [unionucc401@gmail.com](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com)



## Inside this issue:

Notes from Rev. Torri Vande Zande	1-2
Birthdays	2
Youth and Family	3, 9
Council Minutes	4-5
Financial Stewardship	6
How to Get Involved	6-7
Worship Ministry	7
Mission of the Month	8
Women's Fellowship	8
Men's Fellowship	8
Kokoro Corner	9
Events	10
Calendar	11

## MAY 2022

Notes from Rev. Torri Vande Zande

### Breathing!

**"The Christian life is like breathing in and out. In for strength and training, out for ministry and service."** I don't know who first said this, but this has become one of my favorite quotes. It reminds me that my spiritual life needs to be balanced.

I breathe in by taking in God's presence. Prayer, meditation, and long walks in the woods are my way of inhaling. Breathing in gives me strength and energy. It gives me peace and focus so that I know what is important and what my priorities should be.

I breathe out by serving others. I help individuals, I get involved with community organizations and do my best to be the hands and feet of Jesus to others. Exhaling gives me purpose.

I believe that a healthy follower of Christ breathes. They inhale and exhale. They take in the presence of God and let out the peace of Christ through service.

As the summer approaches, I want to encourage everyone to remember to breathe. Take deep breaths of God in, so you can exhale the ministry God is calling you to do this summer. There are a number of ways Union Church offers to help you breathe. I think this newsletter will give you some really good ideas.

In Christ,  
Pastor Torri

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

Communion: First Sunday each month



## YOUTH AND FAMILY

### The Hackensack Café Adventure Scavenger Hunt!

July 14<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

At Union Congregational Church

Union Church and the Hackensack Library welcome the author Norrie Thomas as she kicks off this community event by reading her book to the kids entering K-5<sup>th</sup> grade.

This exciting one-day activity is going to be filled with searching for lost donut recipes that have been scattered through Hackensack (really just around the church and baseball diamond). Small groups of kids (along with their adult leaders) will search for these lost recipes by learning how to use meditation to focus, a compass to find their direction, a decoder to decipher clues, an invisible ink pen to reveal where these recipes might be! When they figure out the clues, they will win a sweet treat!

After the event, all kids and families are invited to a cookout here at Union Congregational Church.

Registration is available to pick up at Union Church or online at <https://www.unioncchackensack.com/>.

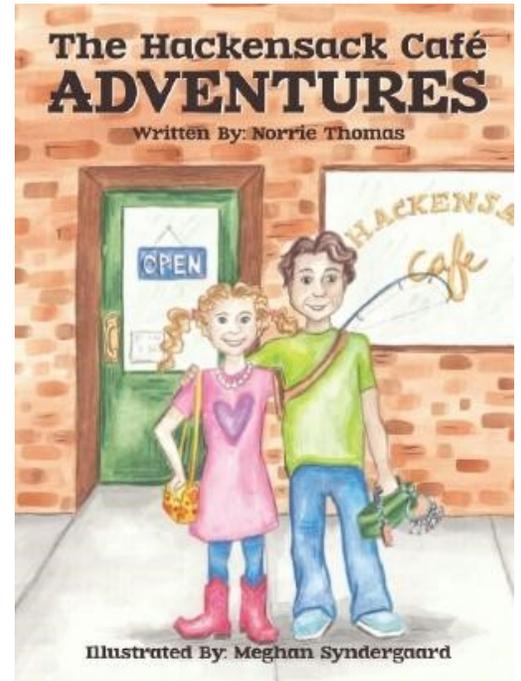
We are also in need of adult leaders in a number of areas.

- Group Leaders
- Station Leaders
- Kitchen Crew
- Registration Helpers
- 2 Guys to play “Papous” (Grandfathers) No previous acting experience needed!

All volunteers are subject to background checks to protect the children. It is fast and easy.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church at 218-675-6300 or email at [unionucc401@gmail.com](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com).

**Note: This community event in partnership and collaboration with the Hackensack Library.**

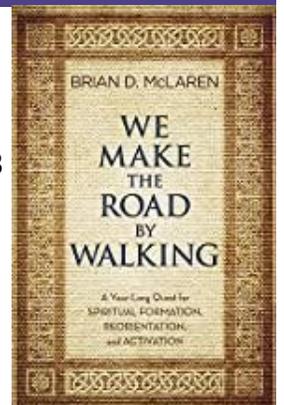


## ADULT LEARNING

### Bible Studies

Our Bible Study has been regularly meeting every other Wednesday at noon in the library. There is a Zoom option.

Recently, we started another Bible Study on Mondays at 1:00 at Birchwood. There are only 3 of us and not everyone is from Union. The hope is to bring in a few more people... either from inside or outside of Union who want to discuss spiritual topics. We are using the same book as our Wednesday noon group.



(Continued on page 9)



# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## APRIL 21, 2022

**PRESENT:** Jo Horak, Karen Holle, Joni Kumpula, Stan Kumpula, Sue Kimmel, Ron Merritt, Don Hoppe, Heidi Hoppe (zoom), Marilyn Erickson, Pastor Torri Vande Zande, Sue Johnson

Marilyn called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved as written, Joni/Ron  
The minutes were approved with the correction of adding Jo Horak to the list of attendees.

Pastor's Monthly Report to Council: Pastor Torri mentioned two memorial services that are scheduled for May: Carl Larson on May 14<sup>th</sup> and Margaret Brown on May 21st.

Regarding the Lenten season, Pastor Torri expressed gratitude to Pastor Leif from St. Paul's Lutheran Church for working with her on the series of Lenten services. Out of five Lenten services, three of them had to be moved due to some issue, often at the last moment. Pastor Torri and Pastor Leif are also talking about ways to cover for each other when one of them is on vacation.

Financial Stewardship: Don's report covered the month of March and also the first quarter of the year. Year to date giving is \$25,091 and year to date expenses are \$38,188 leaving us with a negative balance of \$-9,458. Utility costs have been high this winter and we have not received money yet from the Fetzer Institute. We have had to use some of our carryover income from last year to meet expenses. Council voted to accept the report. Joni/Stan

Facilities: Ron reported that our hot water heater is not working, and he will have Zaffke Plumbing come to take a look and see what needs to be done. Ron also has gotten a quote from Nate Gill for replacing the lower level east door. Motion: Have Nate Gill Construction replace the lower level east entrance door to the church. Ron/Stan/passed. Money for this project will come from the Fetzer Institute and MRI funds.

At this time there is no update on City water. We are currently running a hose to the church as the pipes are frozen. The fire hydrant by the church also does not have water. When it is warmer we will need to work with the City of Hackensack to insulate or replace the pipe that comes under the street into the church.

Board of Personnel: Marilyn is looking for people to work with her on her board. Praesidium screening of volunteers that work with children has begun. The cost for the screening is \$11, and the screening is quick and simple. Kokoro is interested in having their teachers screened this year as music lessons get underway.

Ministry Team Reports: Congregational Life: Joni talked about the people she has been talking to this month. Linda Ottman, our church secretary, makes calls when she has time. Heidi Hoppe is also willing to help this month as she recovers from a broken bone. The team will be involved in several memorial services this summer and is also working to develop a simple picture directory for members of the church. Sabbastian will be helping with that project, and Don will take pictures of members who need that done. Karen reviewed some of the new people who have been coming to church.

Worship: We discussed changing the Passing of the Peace from sign language to allowing a verbal response and a hand shake. It was decided that we would continue to use sign language but could also speak the words of the passing of the peace and could bump elbows with our friends. We also discussed removing the aisle ribbons to allow for people to sit more closely together in the Sanctuary. After discussion we decided to revisit this at our next meeting.

Adult Learning: Torri reported that two Bible studies are currently in operation, both focused on the book, We Make the Road by Walking by Brian McLaren. The newly formed study meets at Birchwood and includes people that are not from Union.

Book studies have been put on hold over Lent, but will begin again soon. Keep alert for information regarding these new opportunities.

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

Youth and Family Ministry Team: Torri reported on the Hackensack Adventure Cafe event scheduled for July 14th from 9 a.m. to noon. Look for details on this event in the May newsletter.

Women's Fellowship: Joni reported on a wonderful meeting last month at Rendezvous Brewery. The turnout was great and everyone had a wonderful time. This month the focus of the meeting will be wine tasting and what foods should be paired with which wines. The Hoppes will bring some of the wines they have been making. Men are invited to the meeting on May 12th at 1:00.

Men's Fellowship: Stan reported that the April meeting with Gary Dietrich was very informative. On May 3rd the Hackensack Chamber of Commerce will be featured; their history and what they do for the community. Women are invited to the May 3rd meeting which begins at 9:00 a.m.

A date for spring cleanup will be scheduled.  
The men packed 36 boxes of food for local families for Easter.

Community Meal: Jo reported that the Community Meal program has gone well this spring despite water problems and bad weather. This week 57 meals were served, and several completely new people came to pick up meals. May 11th is the last meal until next fall. Sue Johnson attended this portion of the meeting and indicated she and her husband are wanting to relocate to Duluth to be closer to family, so Sue will no longer be cooking for the Community Meal Program. Jo will also be retiring from this program when it ends in May. Thank you to Sue and Jo for heading up this wonderful program at our church.

Justice Ministry Team: Sue reported that at the JMT's next meeting they will be forming small groups around their mission actions.

- 1) community support
- 2) allies with our Anishinaabe neighbors
- 3) welcoming and affirming LGBTQ+ neighbors
- 4) care for our environment

The JMT would like to meet with Joe Day, Ojibwe Elder, and Dorothy Harrington, local historian to talk about the history of Hackensack and the surrounding areas.

The JMT is considering forums for this summer. Forums considered:

- inviting the mayor and game changers – what's new from last year?
- Juliet Rudie, Director of the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives task force in St Paul
- Rev Marc Blakesley, Consultant UCC, welcoming our LGBTQ+ neighbors

Outreach: We are finishing up the mission for April which has been the UCC program, One Great Hour of Sharing. In May we will feature Faith in Action. Theresa Eclov will come to talk to us on May 22nd.

Tech Team: Stan talked a bit about the work this team is doing to improve the technical capabilities of the church. It was noted that we need to improve our tech systems on the lower level of the church as soon as possible.

Treasure Sale: Heidi reported for Cindy. The Treasure Sale will run June 8-11, and the hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. On May 19th work will begin to set up for the sale. Volunteers will be needed both during setup and during the sale itself. Please contact Heidi Hoppe to sign up to help with this project.

New Business: Discussion of forums and other events for summer 2022.

Pastor Torri handed out a calendar for the summer, and we began to fill in the events we know are coming. This will be updated as forums and other events are scheduled.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is May 19, 2022. Karen Holle

## BOARD OF FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Giving Income March	\$8,262.95	<b>Year to Date Giving</b>	\$25,090.95
Other Income	\$ 330.00	YTD Other Income	\$3,639.77
Total Income	\$8,592.95	YTD Total Income	\$28,730.72
Expenses March	\$16,672.00	Year to Date Expenses	\$38,188.47
<b>Current Month Balance</b>	<b>\$ -8,079.05</b>	<b>YTD Balance</b>	<b>\$-9,457.75</b>
		Carryover	\$14,709.51
		Prepaid pledges in 2021	<u>\$1,150.00</u>
<b>Monthly Net Income</b>	<b>\$ -8,079.05</b>	<b>YTD Net Income</b>	<b>\$6,525.31</b>

**Giving Income** includes pledges, plate cash, and non-pledge giving and donations.

**Other Income** includes Treasure Sale, Community Meal, building use, fundraisers and all other income sources, except interest and dividends generated from restricted funds and specified donations or grants not going into our operating funds

Checking available:           \$8,262.95

Total Assets                   \$280,656.84

### 2022 Pledges

We have received 44 pledges for a total of \$100,675.

### Summary

Our expenses for January through March were higher than normal, especially for propane and electricity. At the same time, our income has been lower than normal. This is because some larger donations that traditionally have come earlier in the year and the Fetzer funds have not yet been received.

A new contract for the office printer has been signed. A new printer will be installed in May or June, and the monthly expense will decrease by a little over \$50 a month at that time.

One Great Hour of Sharing was the Mission of the Month for April. If you have not yet donated, please get it in as soon as possible. Faith in Action is the Mission of the Month for May.

## GET INVOLVED

### How can I get involved this summer? Here are some ideas:

**Fix-It Projects** – We are in need of people who like to work with their hands or do fix-it projects. We have a large building and sometimes we need handy people to help fix, update, and keep the building in peak condition.

**Book Recommendations** – We are looking for people who love to read and have ideas of different books we can read and discuss for future book discussions.

**The Hackensack Café Adventure Scavenger Hunt** – Volunteers are needed for our one-day family event in July! If you like working with kids, have grandchildren, or just simply want to help make this community event great... come volunteer! It will be a fun day!

**Treasure Sale** – Volunteers are needed to help set up our Treasure Sale! We are taking several days in May to organ-

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

ize, set up and get ready for this 4-day fundraiser.

**Memorial Meals**- We have 2 memorial services coming up in May. We are looking for a few people who are willing to help prepare and serve a luncheon on these days: May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and May 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

**Fundraising**- On Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> we are having a Trivia Night fundraiser for our church. We are looking for a few people who would like to help plan and organize this event.

**Treat Makers** – Do you like treats after church? We are looking for people who like to make or purchase treats for Coffee Hour after church on Sundays. We have a sign-up sheet in the hallway going into the Friendship Hall.

**Reading Scripture** – We are need of readers for our Sunday morning worship services. If you like to read and you do not mind public speaking, we can use your help to lead worship by being what is called a “liturgist.”

**Reaching Out** – Our church supports multiple local organizations such as the Hackensack Food Shelf and Faith in Action. We are looking for 1-2 people who are willing to build relationships with local organizations and help communicate the local organization’s needs to our congregation so we can help meet those needs.

If you would like to help with any of these items, please contact the church at 218-675-6300 or [unionucc401@gmail.com](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com).



## NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



Spring will arrive soon, or so I keep telling myself. However, it's still quite cold in Hackensack. One good sign is that most of the snowbanks have melted away. The birds are beginning to migrate through, and any day now the trees will begin to bud out. Here's a Pine Warbler who arrived at our house this week, one of the first warblers to arrive.

The season of Lent has passed. We had very nice midweek services with our friends from St. Paul's Lutheran. Oddly enough, because of water and technical issues, only 2 of the 5 mid-week services were held at the church where they were originally scheduled! Thank heavens for flexibility.

Our Easter service was very special again this year, and if you would like to watch that video (or any other, including the midweek Lenten services for that matter), you can do so by going to the church's website. There are

links to our past services located there.

The Council met on April 21st, and we discussed the Passing of the Peace and the steps we have taken to maintain social distancing. We voted to begin wishing each other Peace out loud (as well as by sign language) and to bump elbows or shake hands if you and your neighbor are comfortable with that. We tabled the discussion of removing the ribbons blocking off pews until next month. If you would like to voice your thoughts on this matter, please speak to any Worship Ministry Team or Council member. Your opinion matters!

Again, let me stress that times are still uncertain, and it will be up to each one of us to be respectful of the wishes of others. If someone seems uncomfortable with bumping elbows or accepting a handshake, please smile and greet them instead. Remember, no matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

May the Peace of Christ be with you, now and forever.

Heidi Hoppe, Team chair, Sheryl Kaubisch, Gracee Rudkin, Mary Parrish, Caryl Allan

# MISSION OF THE MONTH

## Faith in Action

By Karen Holle

Faith in Action is a locally supported, nonprofit organization, that coordinates volunteers who provide free non-medical, neighborly assistance to seniors, the disabled, and people in need throughout Cass County. People of all ages and walks of life benefit from an assessment of their needs, referral to a broad range of resources, trained volunteers, and the security of volunteer background checks. People receive volunteer services such as: transportation to medical appointments and errands or friendly visiting and caregiver respite. Or people get help with household chores and minor home repair, accessibility ramps and more. The Calling Tree provides chats or check-ins by volunteers for folks feeling isolated and alone. The wheelchair accessible van can provide transportation for people who have difficulty transferring in and out of a car. There are no income or age restrictions and no fees – everyone qualifies!

Volunteers are the backbone of Faith in Action. Mary Bruemmer was recently recognized for her 19 years of service to the organization. When asked about her favorite part of volunteering, Mary said, "I am amazed how many people, not just those we help, but others in my area, talk about Faith in Action. They are amazed at what Faith in Action does. I always tell people who are retiring that they need to find a purpose and Faith in Action is a great place to volunteer." Volunteers receive much more than scheduling coordination and recognition for their work. They know that they make a difference in the lives of folks living in their communities. Volunteers for the organization can do as much or as little as they want to do. It is a fun place to volunteer and a great place to meet people! **Please consider making a donation to Faith in Action during the month of May. You can write a check to the church and note in the memo line that the money is for Faith in Action. Thank you!**

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Wow, if you missed our Rendezvous Brewery trip last month, you missed a fun afternoon. We truly hope you put Thursday May 12th on your calendar now so you don't forget. We will be meeting at 1:00 at church to learn about 5 basic wines that you might order and what foods pair with them. We will learn a bit about how wine is made and do a bit of tasting. We will start with a light white, move through a heartier red, and end with a bubbly. We are so excited that we are inviting the men too. The more the merrier! DO join us!



Also, don't forget our plant sale on May 22nd after the church service.

Joni Kumpula



### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

After two interesting programs the last two months at the church (wild turkeys and area housing needs), we are going on a short trip across town to the Chamber of Commerce on the shores of Birch Lake. We will hear about the chamber's history and their activities for the community area. Please join us on May 3rd at 9am for this event!

Stan Kumpula



# kokoro CORNER

## Poetry Safari - Now Accepting Submissions

The Poetry Safari is a fun new family-friendly feature of this year's Northwoods Art & Book Festival held on Saturday, August 13, 2022, from 9am-3pm on Lake Avenue in Hackensack. Poetry Safari is a joint project of the Northwoods Arts Council and the Kokoro Center for Music and the Performing Arts

Eleven Poetry Safari stands will be scattered throughout the festival. Poetry hunters check in at Safari Headquarters at the main entrance to the festival, then strike out in search of the eleven hidden poems. Find the eleven poems and return to Safari Headquarters for your reward!

Poetry Safari is welcoming submissions from poets of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Milles Lacs, Todd, Wadena, Hubbard, Beltrami, Itasca and Aitkin Counties.



- Focus of poems can be centered on people, places and activities in the Minnesota Northwoods.
- Up to three poems may be submitted for consideration.
- Poetry should be easy to read at 8-½" x 11"

Poetry submissions should be sent to [kokoropoets@gmail.com](mailto:kokoropoets@gmail.com) no later than June 15, 2022. We will notify poets of selected poems by July 15, 2022. For more information about the Poetry Safari, please contact Poetry Safari Headquarters at (218) 270-5648 or email [kokoropoets@gmail.com](mailto:kokoropoets@gmail.com).

See our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/kokoroperformingarts>

Email us at [kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com](mailto:kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com) or call (218) 270-5648

*(Continued from page 3)*

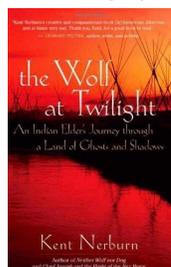
Book Studies Wednesday, May 25 we are starting a new book study Gay Like Me by Richie Jackson.

"When Jackson's son born through surrogacy came out to him at age 15, the successful producer, now in his 50s, was compelled to reflect on his experiences and share his wisdom on life for LGBTQ Americans over the past half-century.

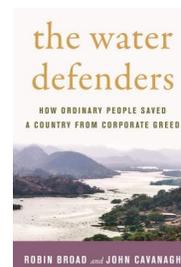
Gay Like Me is a celebration of gay identity and parenting, and a powerful warning for his son, other gay men and the world. Jackson looks back at his own journey as a gay man coming of age through decades of political and cultural turmoil."

If you would like to join the book study, please contact the church at 218-675-6300 or [unionucc401@gmail.com](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com).

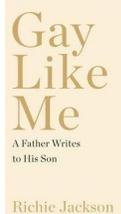
**Other books that are coming later this summer and fall:**



The Wolf at Twilight  
By Kent Nerburn



The Water Defenders: How Ordinary People Saved a Country from Corporate Greed  
By Robin Broad



# ONGOING EVENTS



## Women's Fellowship

Thursday, May 12th 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, May 3rd at 9:00 am at the Chamber of Commerce.

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).



## Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesdays at noon, in the library, or on Zoom.

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).



## Book Study

Starting [Gay Like Me](#) on Wednesday, May 25th. See the Adult Learning article for details (pg.3,9).



## 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

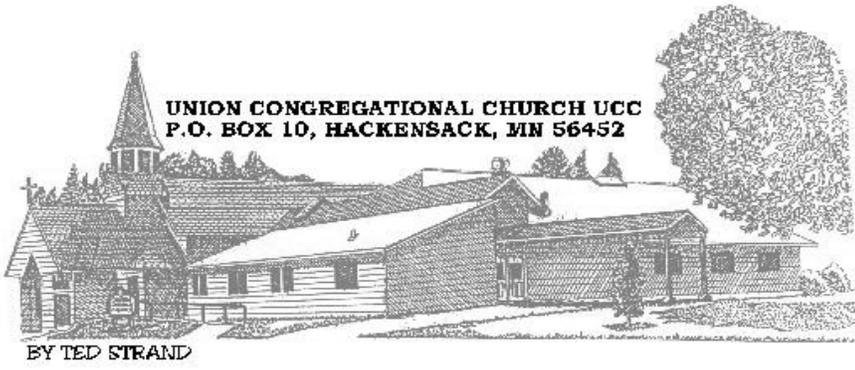
Every other Sunday at 5:30pm. Bring a snack to share.

# Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN

# MAY 2022

\* = Community Event held at the church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Game Night	2 1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*	3	4 9:45 Constitution Meeting 10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall* 12:00pm Bible Study 12:30pm Life Purpose Group* 4:00pm Community Meal	5 1:30- Bone Builders *	6 1:30- Bone Builders *	7
8 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	9 12:30pm Life Purpose Group* 1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*	10 9:00am Men's Group	11 10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall* 12:00pm Bible Study 4:00pm Community Meal	12 6:30pm Justice Ministry Team Meeting (Zoom)	13 1:30- Bone Builders *	14
15 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Game Night	16 1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*	17 5:30pm Financial Board Meeting	18 10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall* 12:30pm Life Purpose Group* 6:00pm Dick's Acoustic Jam*	19 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	20 1:30 Bone Builders *	21
22 9:30am Worship 10:30am Plant Sale 10:30am Coffee Hour	23 9:00am Set Up for Treasure Sale 1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*	24 9:00am Set Up for Treasure Sale	25 10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall* 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Book Study: Gay Like Me	26 9:00am Set Up for Treasure Sale 1:00pm Fiber Arts*	27	28
29 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Game Night	30 1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*	31 9:00am Set Up for Treasure Sale				



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

**FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED**



**2022**

**The Treasure Sale is coming—  
Now accepting donations!  
New Book Study!**

**THE UNION NEWS**