



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*



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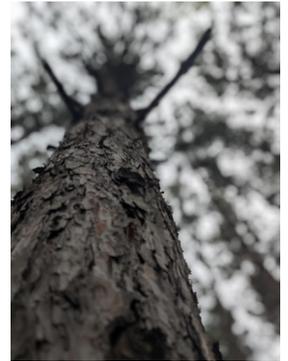
OCTOBER 2022

Notes from Rev. Torri Vande Zande

TREES!

Psalm 1: 1-3

“Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread, or sit at the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord and in the law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.”



One of my favorite things about the Northwoods are the trees. They are tall and majestic... strong and sturdy. They are home to numerous creatures, and they hold the shoreline stable for many of the lakes in the area.

As fall approaches, many of us watch the trees change. Some trees have their leaves change color and slowly fall to the ground. Some pines change from green to bright golden brown while others continue to shed their pine cones and damage the blade of my mower. With all the variations of trees, they have a few things in common:

1. They have roots that dig into the ground to extract water and nutrients to grow.

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Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

Communion: October 16th this 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
 Musicians.....Sheryl Kaubisch
 Kathleen Millberg, Barb Nish, Dick Kimmel

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderators.....Marilyn McKnight & Steve Erickson
 Clerk.....Karen Holle
 Board of Financial Stewardship.....Don Hoppe
 Ministry Teams:
 Congregational Life.....Joni Kumpula
 Facilities.....Mike Bohanon and Kerry Swenson
 Personnel.....Marilyn McKnight
 Worship.....Heidi Hoppe
 Men's Fellowship.....Stan Kumpula
 Women's Fellowship.....Joni Kumpula
 Adult Learning.....Linnea Dietrich
 Tech Team.....Mike Schmitt
 Treasure Sale.....Cindy Gulbrandson
 Justice Ministry Team.....Sue Kimmel



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- October 1 Carole Griggs
- October 4 Lynn Smith
- October 5 Karen Wiersma
- October 6 Jean Carlson
- October 9 Kerry Swenson
Jo Horak
- October 11 Bob Horak
- October 12 Andrew Johnson
- October 18 Rodney Damm
- October 19 Sandra Meyer
- October 22 Wesley Cline
- October 23 Don Smith
- October 25 Mary Lou Nissly
- October 31 Paul Courneya
Miho Adkins

Happy Birthday



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

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2. They rely on the sun for photosynthesis.
3. They are alive.

Within the Old Testament, the authors have trees clapping their hands (Isaiah 55:12), shouting for joy (1 Chronicles 16:33), and even arguing (Judges 9:7-15). In Psalm 1, the first several verses give a metaphor of what a happy person does and does not look like. They do not follow bad advice and listen to people with bad intentions. They do not spend time with people who mock or are negative toward others. But, Psalm 1 says, "they delight in the law of the Lord and they meditate on it day and night."



Now, the "law of the Lord" in this context is the Old Testament law, but for those living in that day and culture, the law was the center of life. It was the heartbeat of their faith, the guide for their lifestyle. And when one meditates on it, there is strength, stability, fruitfulness, and prosperity. Like a tree planted by a stream of water and produces fruit. It is healthy and gives life to everything around it.

For us today, Jesus' life is our example. Christ is the center of the Christian life. Christ is the heartbeat of our faith and guide for us as we live our lives. And when we meditate on the stories we hear and read of His life, death and resurrection, we come to know God on a deeper level. We are like trees planted by a lake, producing fruit, giving stability to the shoreline, giving a resting place for animals, and shade for the weary traveler. Like trees, we are meant to grow, produce fruit, and serve.

As the trees begin their changes this fall, let us take some time and stand in the woods to meditate on our Creator's incredible creation and our God's amazing love and grace for us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Torri

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

I hope you are well and enjoying the fall season. As the earth heads into the winter season, we can only marvel at the beauty all around us - the trees are showing off their lovely fall colors; birds are migrating through on their way to a warmer winter habitat; and flowers are shutting down for the season, to reappear next summer in all their beauty.

We have quite a few things going on in October:

Pastor Torri will be away (on vacation and recovering from foot surgery) for two Sundays this month. Marilyn McKnight and Steve Erickson will provide the message on October 2.

Caryl Allan will speak on October 9. In addition, on the 9th Beverly Peterson will be visiting from Arizona, and we will celebrate the life of our friend, Vern, during coffee hour.

Due to Pastor's absence, communion will be postponed until October 16.

October 23 will also be a busy Sunday: We will celebrate Becca Graham's confirmation and welcome her as a member of Union Church. Dick Kimmel and a friend will provide special music on that day as well.

On October 30 we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, remembering those members and friends who have passed away this year.

Peace to you,
Heidi

Team Members: Heidi Hoppe, Sheryl Kaubisch, Gracee Rudkin, Mary Parrish, and Caryl Allan



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

PRESENT: Marilyn McKnight, Steve Erickson, Pastor Torri, Caryl Allan, Mary Parrish, Don Hoppe, Heidi Hoppe, Stan Kumpula, Mike Schmitt, Sue Kimmel, Karen Holle, Mike Bohanon, Cindy Gulbrandson

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

The minutes were approved as written. Don/Stan. The agenda was approved.

Pastor's Monthly Report: Pastor Torri reviewed her monthly report emphasizing two funeral services that she will be performing in the next couple of weeks. She also mentioned a baptism ceremony for two children that she performed recently and a confirmation that is coming up September 25. Torri will be on vacation October 2-8 and will be having foot surgery on October 5. We will need to help her out after her surgery with walks for Koda, meals for Torri, etc. She will not be walking for two weeks.

Financial Stewardship Board: Don reported that August was a good month for church income. Giving income was \$11,691 which was a little more than last year. Other income from building use, the Trivia Night, and other donations brought in an additional \$8,286. As stated at the Semi-Annual Meeting, our giving continues to be lower than our expenses, and Don is encouraging us to get our 2023 pledges in as soon as possible. We also need people to complete their pledges for the current year. As of September 11 we have received 27 pledges: 3 new pledging units and 24 previous pledging units. Total pledged at this point is \$68,877 which is a 5% increase for the returning pledging units.

Facilities Board: Warnick's Cleaning Service has given us a bid to clean the top level of the church weekly. The cost would be \$170 per week to clean the Sanctuary, library, office, bathrooms, entryways, and kitchen. This includes dusting and vacuuming, garbage removal, and refill of paper products. The company provides their own cleaning supplies and is insured and bonded. They will provide extra cleaning when needed if they can have two weeks' notice to schedule it. The motion to hire this company to start as soon as possible was made. Heidi/Mary/passed.

Fall Projects Plan: It was suggested that we pick a morning when most of us could be available to work at church on several projects. Some of the projects discussed are: Clean out the pantry in the kitchen. Take a look at the freezer upstairs to see if there are items to throw away. Move food from downstairs kitchen to upstairs kitchen. Clean out and reorganize the spice cabinet. Left-over Treasure Sale items need to go to the dumpster, the dump or the storage room until next year. Clean out the lower level janitor's closet.

Two estimates were presented by Kerry for church projects: From Brothers Curbing, an estimate of \$1,440 to build a curb alongside the driveway on the west side of the church to keep water away from the church as it flows down the hill.

An estimate from Watermain Insulating for insulation of the water line into the church from the street to keep the line from freezing in the winter. This estimate was \$5,530 which was close to the estimate the City had for what appeared to be quite a bit more work. Council agreed that this

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project must be done when the City does their part. The cost will be updated as we get closer to the actual work.

Personnel: Marilyn is looking for another person for her team. Her next project will be to re-write Pastor Torri's call letter for the new year.

Ministry Teams: Congregational Life: CL team passed around a copy of the church directory that is being worked on. We will get a few more pictures, make a few more changes, and give it to folks before they leave for the winter.

Worship: Council voted today to remove the "Covid ropes" from the pews inside the Sanctuary which will allow people to sit where they would like to sit. Mary/Don/passed. Two pews will be removed in the Sanctuary to allow for wheelchairs to easily be accommodated.

Youth and Families: Our first Community Meal will be September 28 from 4:30 – 5:30. We will continue the program twice a month until mid December and will then re-evaluate the schedule.

Women's Fellowship: The last meeting of the Women's Fellowship was a wine-tasting and food-pairing extravaganza. The meeting was enjoyed by all. Next month join us for coffee and conversation on October 13.

Men's Fellowship: Stan reported that nine men attended the meeting to watch videos of Hunt Utilities demonstrating energy efficient housing. Next month the men will explore the solar electrical system installed at St. Paul's and will go out for breakfast.

Justice Ministry Team: The Justice Ministry Team will begin a fall book study on Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 7:00 pm. The book chosen for this discussion is Savvy Ally by Jeannie Gainsburg. The book is a guide to becoming a skilled LGBTQ+ advocate.

On Thursday, September 22 beginning at 5:30 all community members are invited to the Leech Lake Culture Alliance 3rd Annual Autumn Equinox Unity Day Celebration. The potluck gathering and round dance is at the Onigum Community Center.

On Sunday, September 25, after worship, Vicki Wunsch will be at Union for our forum, Open and Affirming, What's Next?

September 30 at 6:30 the JMT will be showing the documentary KISS THE GROUND for the community.

On October 8, JMT members will be attending a Climate Change Forum at Deep Portage.

Fundraising: Steve reported that the next Trivia Night fundraiser is scheduled for October 22. Steve is also looking into ways to increase our building use fee income in the future. Don reported that in 2022 we have already raised \$2,300 for the church through building use fees.

Tech Team: Mike Schmitt has requested that Council members attend a training September 20 to improve our understanding of computer technology. Council members will learn about their new church emails and will learn to store church documents in a different way electronically.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is October 20. Clerk, Karen Holle

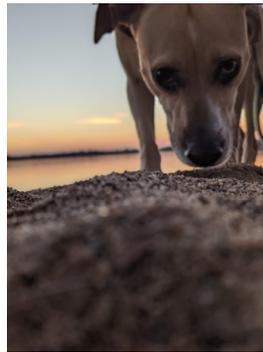
THROUGH KODA'S EYES



Hi, my name is Koda and I am the Church Dog! I do not have much to say this month, but I wanted to show you what I have been doing! So I asked my human to show you some pictures of our adventures!



This is me walking on the Paul Bunyan Trail early one morning.



This is me photobombing my Human's picture of a sunset.



This is Bandit (the cat) and I watching the rabbit



This is me trying to catch a butterfly. I didn't get it.



And this is me telling my human I had enough picture taking and now I want a treat.

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Well, I hope you enjoyed my pictures. Remember to take your own pictures this fall! I have really enjoyed my time up here in Northern Minnesota. It is very different from my days in Texas. Last fall was full of amazing colors and smelly leaves. I am looking forward to that again!

Have a barky day!
Koda (The Church Dog)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Second Thursday October 13th 1:00 pm

Greetings and happy fall! Leaves are falling, and sweaters are coming out of the closet. We had a really fun September meeting. We tasted some of our favorite wines and laughed a lot. I hope we learned a bit too. This month we are again doing a tasting party. It will be several types and kinds of coffee, I hope some that you have never tried before! I'm predicting another fun session filled with a bit of information and laughter. Please put our regular meeting day, Thursday October 13th at 1:00 on your calendar and join the fun! We will also be planning the rest of the year's meetings so bring your ideas.

See you in church and on the 13th, Joni



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Next meeting first Tuesday Oct 4, 9:00 am

For the next meeting, we will meet at St Paul's Lutheran Church to hear about their experience with the new Solar System they installed and began using in August, 2022. It should be of interest to us if we want to consider solar for our church. Then we will go out for breakfast and enjoy conversation and fellowship but will also want to arrange for our involvement in the Thanksgiving food boxes.

Last month we met at Union Church to see the online videos that Hunt Utilities Group of Pine River MN has put out on their research & development of actual energy efficient houses. They demonstrated that we can build resilient new homes to reduce greenhouse gases by taking control of our own energy needs. Tours of their structures are also available should we want to visit them.

Future meetings starting in November may just involve breakfast and fellowship as we have had several programs during the past year; maybe we will rest our brains for awhile.

Join us for fellowship, Stan Kumpula



JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM

The Justice Ministry Team will be meeting by Zoom on October 6 at 7:00 PM.
All are welcome to join us for the following important October events.

The Challenge of Climate Change in Northern Minnesota, October 8, 9:00AM-4:00PM
Deep Portage Learning Center, 2197 Nature Center DR NW, Hackensack.

This Northern MN event will feature local presenters as well as leaders in Climate Change from the U of MN and The Nature Conservancy. Pre-registration is required, visit www.deep-portage.org

Juliet Rudie, Director of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Task Force will be at the Onigum Community Center, 8825 Onigum Road NW, Walker on October 24 at 5:00PM.
Did you know that anywhere from 27-54 Indigenous women and girls were missing in MN in any given month from 2012-2020? Minnesota is 9th in the nation for missing and murdered indigenous women. We are going to meet Juliet, learn about the task force, and consider what can be done to change the alarming statistics. This is a potluck event in partnership with the Leech Lake Culture Alliance.

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

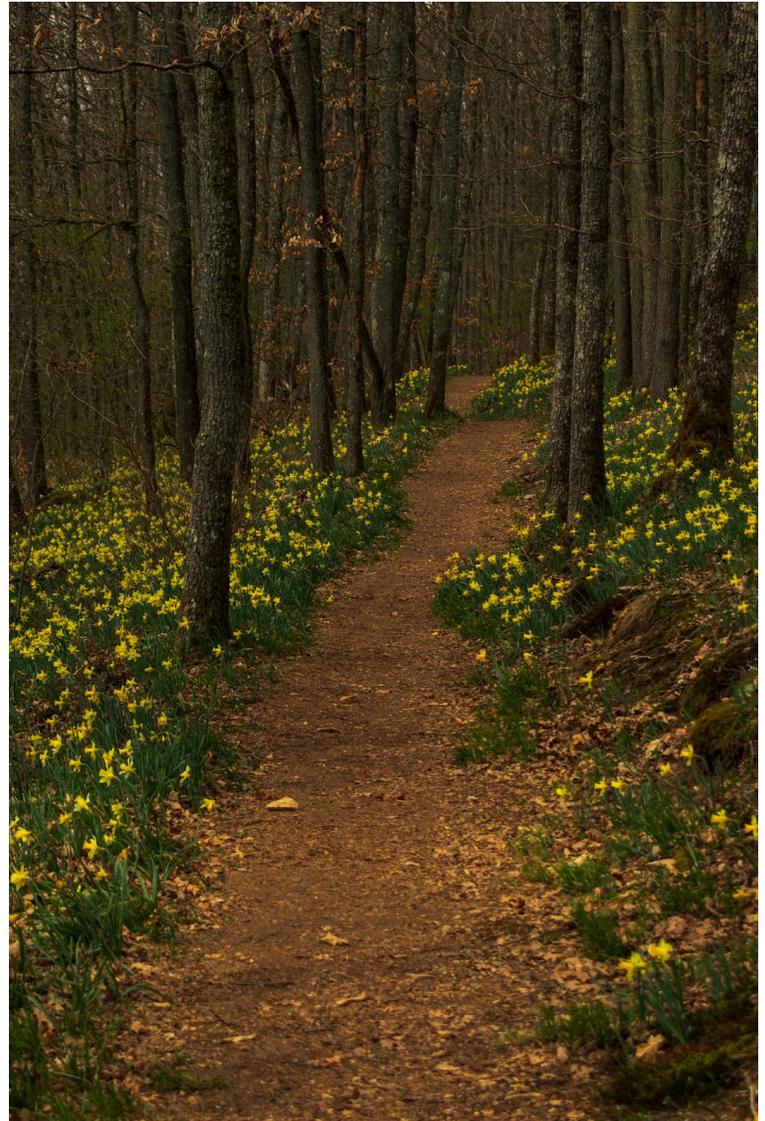
By William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.



BOARD OF FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Giving Income-August	\$11,691.00	Year to Date Giving	\$80,443.95
Other Income	\$ 8,286.34	YTD Other Income	\$20,968.18
Total Income	\$19,977.34	YTD Total Income	\$101,412.13
Expenses-August	\$9,110.38	Year to Date Expenses	\$108,232.13
Current Month Balance	\$10,866.96	YTD Balance	\$-6,280.00
		Unrestricted Funds	\$10,000.00
		Other Reserve Funds	\$ 6,008.24
		Carryover	\$14,709.51
		Prepaid from 2021	<u>\$1,150.00</u>
Monthly Net Income	\$10,866.96	YTD Net Income	\$ 25,047.75

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

Checking available: \$45,948.62

Total Assets \$289,657.73

Summary

August giving was about normal and a little more than 2021, but expenses were lower than normal. There was also more Other Income, especially from building use, Trivia/Silent Auction, and money from donations and unexpected miscellaneous funds.

As stated at the semi-annual meeting, our giving continues to be lower than projected, and we expect that our income in 2022 may not fully meet our expenses.

The new outside door to the lower level has been installed and paid for out of MRI Reserve funds, but not reflected in this report.

For the long-term financial health of Union Church, we need strong giving and completion of pledges in 2022 and strong pledging and giving in 2023. We hope to receive 50 pledges for next year.

As of September 18th we have received 30 pledges: 3 new pledging units and 27 previous pledging units. Total pledged at this point is \$ 76,377.00, which includes a 4.8% increase in the pledged amount from the 27 returning pledging units.

If you have not yet made your pledge, it is not too late! You can receive pledging information in the church office or request it from Don Hoppe, Financial Secretary at finsec.ucchackmn@gmail.com or at 218-839-4341.

ONGOING EVENTS



Women's Fellowship

Thursday, October 13th at 1:00pm 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.



Men's Fellowship

Tuesday, October 4th at 9:00 am at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 218-675-6300 or email the church at unionucc401@gmail.com.



Bible Study

Stay tuned for the return of Bible Study!

If you have any questions, please call the office at 218-675-6300 or email the church at unionucc401@gmail.com.



Exercise in Friendship Hall

Every Wednesday at 10:00am.

**Community Event hosted at Union*



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.

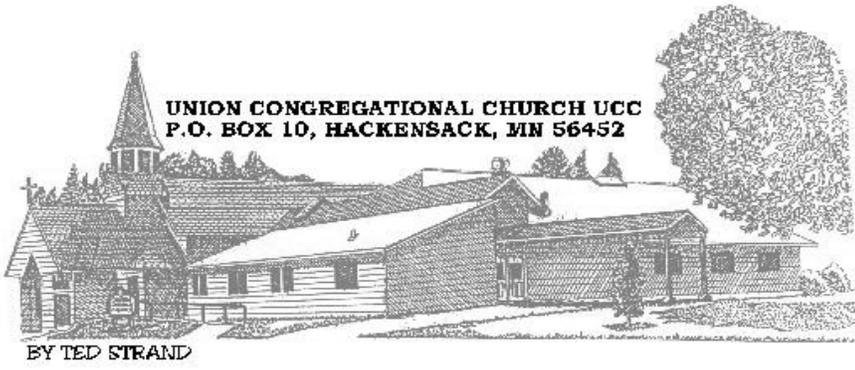
Bring a snack to share.

Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN

OCTOBER 2022

* = Community Event held at the church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>9:30am Worship</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>5:30pm Game Night</p> <p><i>Pastor Torri on Vacation</i></p>	<p>1:30pm Bone Builders *</p> <p>6:00pm AA Meeting*</p>	<p>9am Men's Fellowship Group</p>	<p>10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall*</p>	<p>6:30pm Justice Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p>1:30pm Bone Builders *</p>	<p>11:00am Memorial Service Joanne Moren</p>
<p>9:30am Worship</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>1:30pm Bone Builders *</p> <p>6:00pm AA Meeting*</p>	<p>5:30pm Financial Board Meeting</p>	<p>10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall*</p> <p>4:30-5:30 pm Community Meal in Friendship Hall</p>	<p>1:00pm Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>1:30pm Bone Builders *</p>	
<p>9:30am Worship - Communion</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>5:30pm Game Night</p>	<p>1:30pm Bone Builders *</p> <p>6:00pm AA Meeting*</p>		<p>10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall*</p> <p>6:00pm Dick's Acoustic Jam*</p>	<p>1:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>1:30pm Bone Builders *</p>	<p>5:00pm Trivia Night at UCC</p>
<p>9:30am Worship - Confirmation of Becca Graham</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>1:30pm Bone Builders *</p> <p>5:00pm LLCA potluck at Origium*</p> <p>6:00pm AA Meeting*</p>		<p>10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall*⁶</p>	<p>1:00pm Fiber Arts*</p>	<p>1:30pm Bone Builders *</p>	
<p>9:30am Worship (All Saints Sunday)</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>5:30pm Game Night</p>	<p>1:30pm Bone Builders *</p> <p>6:00pm AA Meeting*</p>		<p>4:30-5:30 pm Community Meal in Friendship Hall</p>			



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THE UNION NEWS

Change is in the air!

2022

