



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



OCTOBER 2020

**Notes from
Rev. Torri Vande Zande**

Pumpkin!

October is one of my favorite months. I love the crisp air, the color of the trees and the smell of the first wood being burning in the fireplace. But there is one thing I love more than anything else in October... Pumpkin! I love pumpkin!

When I was little, I hated pumpkin. I thought the insides of a pumpkin looked like fish guts and pumpkin pie looked like baby poop. I wanted nothing to do with it!

I was well into my 30's when a friend of mine convinced me to try pumpkin pie. I was reluctant, but I took my fork, cut off a small piece and ate it. The flavor burst in my mouth! It was like nothing I ever tasted before! It was delicious and I loved it!

Now, when October 1st comes along, I gear up my taste buds to eat every pumpkin flavored anything I can find. I search for pumpkin pie, pumpkin bread, pumpkin cupcakes, and my favorite... iced pumpkin spiced chi tea from Starbucks. You think I would get sick of it, but not in October. It is my seasonal craving when the weather cools off and autumn is in full swing.

I think everyone has seasonal cravings that get triggered during certain times of the year. For me it is pumpkin in October, for others it might be Christmas music in December or barbeques in July. And these cravings come and go. Do I ever crave pumpkin in May? No, not normally. Do I ever want to barbeque in January? No, not in Northern Minnesota! But we all have cravings at certain times during the year.

We also have heart cravings during certain times of the year. For me, October is a very nostalgic time of remembering. Over the years I have been through some pretty difficult life changes in the autumns of my life. I have come to learn to slow down in October, look around at the beauty God has created and take deep breathes to relax my soul and know that even if God is quiet... God is near.

I have learned and continue to learn:

In the midst of chaos and struggle... even when God is quiet, God is near.

In the midst of heartache and pain... even when God is quiet, God is near.

In the midst of confusion and loneliness... even when God is quiet, God is near.

Often times I am reminded of God's presence when I see the blowing golden leaves racing across the ground. We may not be able to see God, but we see the affects God has on this world and feel God moving all around us. There

Sunday Worship at 9:30 A.M.

Communion: First Sunday each Month

Church Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Torri Vande Zande
 Church Secretary.....Sabbastian Wilson-Webb
 Financial Secretary.....Don Hoppe
 Treasurer.....Sheryl Kaubisch
 Choir Director..... Sheryl Kaubisch
 Bell Choir Director.....Heidi Hoppe
 Organists.....Sheryl Kaubisch
 Pianist..... Kathleen Millberg, Barb Nish
 Custodian.....Sue Johnson
 "Morning Out".....Sue Johnson

Church Council

Moderator.....Joni Kumpula
 Vice-Moderator.....Tom Cox
 Clerk.....Karen Holle
 Board of Financial Stewardship.....Don Hoppe

 Ministry Teams:
 Christian Learning.....Jo Horak
 Congregational Life.....Margaret Zieffler
 Facilities.....Mike Bohanon and Ron Merritt
 Personnel.....Church Council
 Worship.....Heidi Hoppe
 Men's Fellowship.....Ron Merritt
 Women's Fellowship.....Linda Merritt

is no doubt in my mind that God is active and working during this time in life even though God's voice may be quiet.

This world seems incredibly chaotic right now, but God is actively working in the hearts and minds of all people. It may seem like all the bad in this world is pouring out right now, but know too... there is a lot of good being poured out also. People just like to talk about the bad more.

So, this October when life gets scary, I would like for you to do something. I would like for you to slow down and realize what you are craving at this point in time. Take notice of God's beautiful creation and the blowing of the wind. And at that moment, acknowledge God's presence, take a deep breath and go enjoy a slice of pumpkin pie.

God is in the wind. God is in the chill of the air. God is near.

In Christ alone,
 Pastor Torri



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- October 1 Carole Griggs
- October 4 Mary Curo
Lynn Smith
- October 5 Karen Wiersma
- October 6 Jean Carlson
- October 9 Jo Horak
- October 11 Bob Horak
- October 12 Andrew Johnson
- October 17 Scott Kutscher
- October 18 Rodney Damm
- October 19 Sandra Meyer
- October 22 Wes Cline
- October 23 Don Smith
- October 25 Mary Lou Nissly
- October 30 Caesar the Church Dog



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.

MODERATOR'S NOTES

Greetings, can you believe it's October already? I guess that's what happens when you get older....at least our gran-nys said so! Even with COVID the fall is gorgeous. The colors are truly spectacular! Many of our friends are packing up to head south. It is sad to see them leave. Union doesn't slow down. I hope you have had some phone calls, masks and social distancing with everyone this summer. It has been a hard time but it is possible to giggle with friends and neighbors and that makes us all happier!

Our council meetings work well with some members present and some on Zoom. Thank goodness for Zoom. Our boards are all meeting one way or another. We now can have small meetings at church with masks and social distancing and twenty five units can celebrate worship in the sanctuary. We must be vigilant with masks and distance.

I hope that you all feel as I do that Union has done a remarkable job during this difficult time. It has all been uncharted waters. We all hope to continue and be even better in serving our spiritual needs.

I want to acknowledge the very sad death of our dear friend, Orv Broberg. He was truly a blessing to the Hackensack community and to Union Church for many years. Our condolences and prayers go to Geri and Craig.

We'll run, the leaves are calling.

We'll chat soon, Joni

Women's Fellowship 2nd Thursday

Linda will have a women's fellowship meeting on October 8th at 1:00PM. If you would like to attend by Zoom, please let Linda or Torri know. If you would like to attend in person, the meeting will be held in the Friendship Hall with masks and social distancing.

Men's Group 1st Tuesday 9:00AM

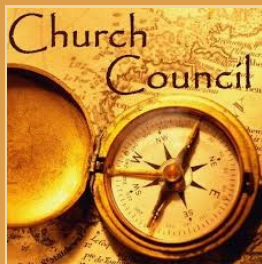
Men's group will get together the 1st Tuesday each month visit face-to-face in the Friendship Hall or Zoom in on our conversation. Contact Don Hoppe if you would like to come.

This month both men and women are invited to help with the road clean-up of highway 40 on October 6th.



TREASURE SALE 2021

Should you have any items to donate to a future Treasure Sale, please call Cindy Gulbrandson, our Team Leader at (612) 232-2760. She is in charge of internet sales and storage. We have our fingers crossed that we will be able to have a sale next summer!



COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

PRESENT: By Zoom: Karen Holle, Tom Cox, Sarah Cox, Sabbastian Wilson-Webb.

In Friendship Hall with masks and social distancing: Pastor Torri, Mary Parrish, Mike Bohannon, Don Hoppe, Heidi Hoppe, Joni Kumpula, Linda Merritt.

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

The agenda was approved as written. Don/Mary. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Don/Linda

Pastor's Report: Pastor Torri mentioned in her written report to Council many of the things she has been involved with in the past month. Torri feels that Sunday services are going well with a few more people attending church "in person" than before. This is inspiring for the people attending the worship and also for the pastor who doesn't have to preach to a camera. Torri has joined the Comprehensive Planning Team in Hackensack as a way to know the community better.

Torri would like us to review and modify the Policy and Procedures Manual starting this winter with a focus on looking at the responsibilities of each board and ministry team. Torri also told Council that she has been personally struggling to "do church" during this time of corona virus. Torri does not have a secretary in the office and has several leaders of the church that are staying away from church due to concerns about getting ill. This has led her to feel abandoned at times. Karen, Joni, Mary P. and Linda will all help cover office time, especially when groups are meeting in the church or Torri has a meeting she needs to focus on.

Sabbastian will be emailing the Union Weekly out to the Congregation each Monday. This email will let us know each week what is going on that we might be interested in. He will also provide an interface for prayer requests on the website. He is also working on an online prayer list that would be password protected.

Financial Stewardship: Don reported that the income received for August was very good, partly due to a special gift the church received. For 2020 our year to date income is \$115,274 and our expenses are \$99,855. This leaves a positive difference of \$15,419. Don is not sure how income will be for the remainder of the year. He encouraged people to send their pledges in for 2021. To date 30 pledges have been received for a total of \$75,260.

Facilities: Roof work was recently completed on the north and east sides of the church. Don felt that clean-up from the project wasn't done well enough. We are still struggling to get our church phone service working. Currently all calls go to Torri's telephone. This is obviously not a good situation. Joni has been working on pulling weeds that are growing around the church. She has accomplished a lot and the property looks good.

Personnel Board: Karen has been reviewing the old files that are stored behind Sabbastian's desk in the office. Old personnel files should be destroyed and current files should be placed in a locked cabinet.

Ministry Team Reports: Congregational Life: The team is plugging away, calling people and trying to make contact. Don mentioned that money in the CL budget for advertising at the Bear Pause Theater has been re-allocated for a new church computer.

Worship: Heidi talked about the "staff" that helps Pastor Torri with the Sunday service "streaming". The Ericksons have been trained and can help with this and soon Cindy and Mike Gulbrandson will be trained to help. Heidi will order a new license that allows us to stream the words from hymns on Facebook. We also talked about the need to not let people congregate at the outer doors of the Sanctuary before or after the service. We discussed having 2 or 3 chairs at each table in the Friendship hall so people can socially distance after church. Mary Parrish, the Hoppes, and Caesar the church dog will help with this. Karen will call people to make sure they know they can attend Sunday service if they wear masks and socially distance.

Women's Fellowship: Linda will have a women's fellowship meeting on October 8 at 1:00. If you would like to attend by zoom, please let Linda or Torri know. If you would like to attend in person, the meeting will be held in the Friendship Hall with masks and social distancing.

Men's Fellowship: Ron reported that both men and women are invited to help on October 6 with the road clean-up of highway 40. Meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. if you can help.

Christian Learning: Jo was not able to attend today's meeting. The Family Table take-out meals resumed and is serving about 60 people currently. Some of the people coming this fall are new to us.

Justice Ministry Team: White Fragility book discussion begins September 21 at 2:00. This group is closed to additional members.

Moderator's Moment: Joni encouraged us to be kind to each other. We are all under strain in this difficult time.

Meeting Adjourned – Mary/Linda Torri offered a closing prayer. Clerk, Karen Holle



WORSHIP NEWS

COME JOIN US AT WORSHIP

Beginning last month we moved into stage 3 of the Covid-19 Reopening Plan adopted by the Council earlier this year. We remain careful and vigilant, keeping in mind the fragile health of some of our parishioners. We hope you are satisfied with the precautions we are taking and will feel comfortable joining us at worship. There is room for everyone!

- Hand sanitizers and facemasks (in case you forgot yours) are located at the entrances to the sanctuary.
- Every other pew has been blocked off to ensure safe physical distancing.
- Announcements are done by the worship leaders (no passing the mic around) so if you have an announcement, please contact Pastor Torri during regular office hours (Monday - Thursday from 9 - 2) at 218-507-1905.
- Passing of the Peace is done in sign language from the pew - no handshakes or hugs at this time.
- Offering plates have been placed at each entrance to the sanctuary.
- We continue to stream the service on our Facebook page, YouTube, and our website.
- We are a small congregation. In the unlikely event we have more parishioners than space in the sanctuary, overflow will be seated in the Fellowship Hall and the service will be broadcast there.

I hope you feel comfortable with the precautions we are taking and that we will see those of you who are in the area in worship soon.

And, as always, remember that we are social creatures and also that we are the hands and feet of God. I encourage you to connect with family, friends and neighbors through phone calls, cards and outdoor visits. Their day will be brighter, and so will yours!

Should you have any question or concerns, please contact me. The worship experience has changed, but we are striving to make it meaningful. Your input will be gratefully appreciated.

Heidi Hoppe, Team Leader (218-831-3927)



CAESAR'S TALES

Hi, my name is Caesar and I am the church dog! I need to tell you about an adventure I had with my dog friend Noel! She is not my girlfriend; she is just a friend.

A few weeks ago, my human needed to go out of town so I went to visit my friends Mary (who is human) and Noel. Their place is super cool! It is full of grass and gardens and trees! It also has an enormous number of chipmunks on it.

Before my human left, she told me to not run off chasing chipmunks, or deer, or bear. She told me to stay close to Mary and not be a bad influence on Noel. I gave my human "the sad eyes" to reassure her that I will be on my best behavior. And I really wanted to be a good boy. I really, really wanted to be good. But I do not think I was.

It was still morning and Mary was working outside with a long stick piling up acorns. I knew she wasn't going to throw the stick, so I looked for something else to do. Noel, kept following me around telling me to stay on the short grass. I think Mary told her to keep an eye on me in case I wandered off, but I wanted to explore.



I was sniffing near the garden when I heard some rustling in the trees. I looked up and saw a chipmunk sitting on a rock just staring at me. I hate it when they stare at me! So I did the only thing I could do... I chased it! I bolted into the woods after it and it scampered around trees, under logs and through long grass. This little thing was fast!

I could hear Mary in a distance call my name, "*Caesar! Caesar!*" She was cheering me on! I felt very encouraged that she thought I could catch this chipmunk. But then Noel (who was behind me) was calling out, "*Caesar, Caesar, we have to go back. My human is yelling for us!*", but I kept running.

I lost the chipmunk's scent somewhere between the pine tree and the other pine tree. He got away! I stopped, looked around and realized I had no idea where I was. I was lost! Noel was close behind me and she asked, "*Where did it go? Did you lose it?*" Being the good hunter that I am, and kind of prideful I said, "*No, I did not lose it. I did a catch and release. I let it go.*" But honestly, I totally lost it. I have no clue how it got away.

Noel and I were deep in the woods and very far from her house. I felt bad that I got distracted by the chipmunk and got us lost. I did not understand why I just could not leave that chipmunk alone and listen to Noel's human. Why did I not listen to Noel? I got distracted and my instincts kicked in and all I wanted to do was hurt this chipmunk.

Then off in the distance we heard a car and Mary calling out from it, "*Noel, Caesar, you two get back home right now!*" It was at that moment when I needed to admit to Noel that I was lost and did not know the way back. Noel cocked up her head, smiled and said, "*I know the way back!*" and she took off through the woods. I followed her as best as I could. She is much faster than I am. Do not tell her I said that!

When we got back to Noel's home, it was only a few minutes later that Mary and her car pulled in the driveway. Noel leaned over to me and said, "*Should we pretend that we were here all along?*" I looked at Noel from the corner of my eye and said, "*Noel, stop being a bad influence on me.*"

Well, needless to say Noel and I spent the rest of the day inside. I had every intention of being a good dog that day, but I got distracted by a little thing that I thought was a big deal. I chased something I thought was worth pursuing and I ended up getting lost in the process. I wonder if humans ever do that? Probably not. But I am glad I had a friend to help me find my way back.

So that was my adventure! Have a barky day!



Celebrating the Past – Myra Damm, historian

The early years of growth.

What was the church building like in the early days? According to a report given by Bette Green at the 25th Anniversary, it was as follows:

The furniture in the church was the bare necessities- There was a pulpit and chair for the minister. A piano was given by the young people. Wooden folding chairs (the noisy kind) for seating. A huge box stove in the center of the church with a long, long stovepipe that went up high and then to the front of the church to the chimney. It had many long wires from the ceiling to hold it in place. It burned wood which was furnished by the farmers. In the winter it was never warm. In order to save fuel the yearly pot luck business meeting were often held at the Greens.

The lights were long green wires from the ceiling with a bare bulb.

The church was always open for funerals, whether members or not. As there was no place to serve coffee for the mourners on their return from the cemetery often the pot was on at the Greens.

On January 17, 1917, the 1st Ladies Aid in Hackensack was formed by the congregational women for the purpose of helping with the church expenses. More on this next month.

Thank You from Mike & Lois Bohanon

This thank you is long overdue!

Mike and I need to thank the members of UCC for all the visits, food, and well wishes I have received during these past years. Me with my two hip replacement surgeries and left arm breakage; Mike with his ongoing heart condition. We are truly blessed to have such good friends!

Thank you again!

Mike & Lois Bohanon



CHRISTIAN LEARNING

October has arrived! In the Up North country it means beautiful Fall colors, brisk nights, and harvest time. Most schools have returned to class in some form and sports are coming back too. Prayers are being said for parents, kids, elders, and all who are dealing with the “new normal” life. Have Faith. Trust in your Higher Power.

The Monday Morning Bible Study Group has enjoyed Summer gathering outdoors on various decks, patios, yards, lake views, and large open air buildings. All were lovely but one had a view of a field of sunflowers. The flower heads follow the sun from morning to night. So beautiful! It also reminds us to follow God’s Son as well - even on cloudy days!

We are a hardy group but as days become cooler the decision has been made to gather indoors again. In October we will meet in the Lower Level Community Room (parking in back) for Coffee and Conversation at 10:00 AM, Bible Study 10:30-11:30 AM. Study materials are provided and all are welcome. Prayers are always part of this supportive group. Please come as often as you can - we miss you!

Community Meals have resumed again with curbside service from our Upper Level Kitchen (West Entrance). Hot, healthy meals are delivered right to your vehicle by smiling volunteers.

No cost for meals but donations are gratefully accepted. We also have delivery service with advance notice. Please call Jo (651-274-2145) or text Sue to reserve meals or mention any dietary needs. All meals include an entree, side dish (veggie, fruit, etc.) and delicious dessert. Please let friends and family know this option is available to all - it is a service of the Union Church Christian Learning Program. Special thanks to all the dedicated workers who make this mission possible. Your efforts and donations are much appreciated!

Treasure Sale Update News!

With Union Church holding in-person services again, we want to remind all that Treasure Sale work is ongoing. Cindy and Heidi do accept items for online sales now and we have limited storage for larger pieces. Please check with either of them for decisions about drop-off/pick-up of items. Donation receipts are also available. Treasure Sale dates for 2021 are June 9, 10, 11, and 12. More details will be included later. You can shop online now by checking sites listed elsewhere in the newsletter or church online site. Thanks for your support!

VBS will be back in 2021! Space Explorers will gather on June 23, 24, and 25 for a lively, scientific, yet spiritual camp for ages Pre-K to entering 8th Grade in the Fall. We are excited to offer this opportunity to our youth again. Of course, you are never too old to go to camp so we can sign up adults too. Do you have ideas to teach or learn? Let us hear from you!

Our Scholarship Ministry Team will soon be gathering for updates on this year’s planning process. Usually our Award Ceremony takes place in early January. Details are being arranged to reflect student schedules. Prayers and support go out to Gabe and Racheal this academic year.

Heart of Christmas Youth Program may have more music and less drama than last year as we work around the restrictions of a COVID-19 setting. Many creative minds are thinking of ways to accomplish this so kids will have an opportunity to let their ‘light’ shine. After all, they are our future!

Those of you who are returning to warmer climates for Winter, we wish you a safe journey and good health. Those who are staying here we wish the same. Now Zoom has come into many lives may we stay in closer touch than was possible before. All of you - young, old, and in between - are welcome here at Union Church. Peace to you and yours!

The Christian Learning Team

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Summer is over and autumn is here. The trees are turning rapidly and leaves are beginning to fall. It is a beautiful time of year in this section of God's country.

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 in 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 34 pledges for a total of \$79,310. We hope to receive over 40 pledges and our goal is \$120,000.

August revenue was up significantly, but September may be less than last year. One reason August revenue was up was a significant donation to Union because of the effect that the pandemic is having on our church. Union Church has also begun in-church worship with safety protocols, and it is good to see others in worship.

Strong giving by non-pledging units and completion of pledges by pledging units during the period of October 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.

How can you donate to Union Church, without being physically at Union Church? There are numerous 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 funds transfer payment of pledge or donation amount through your 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.

Please consider establishing a legacy gift to Union Church. If you are interested in planned giving and wish to discuss options open to you, please contact us for more information.

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. May we be open to and embrace these changes.

Christ's Love and Peace to You,

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

*If you are planning to attend the **October 20th** open mic via zoom, please register by **October 15th**. Thank you!*

(tech support available)

KOKORO CENTER FOR MUSIC & THE PERFORMING ARTS
presents

POETRY OPEN MIC

TUESDAY OCTOBER 20th 7pm

**Poets of the
Minnesota Northwoods
& Audience Members**

To register call (218) 270-5648

or email kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com

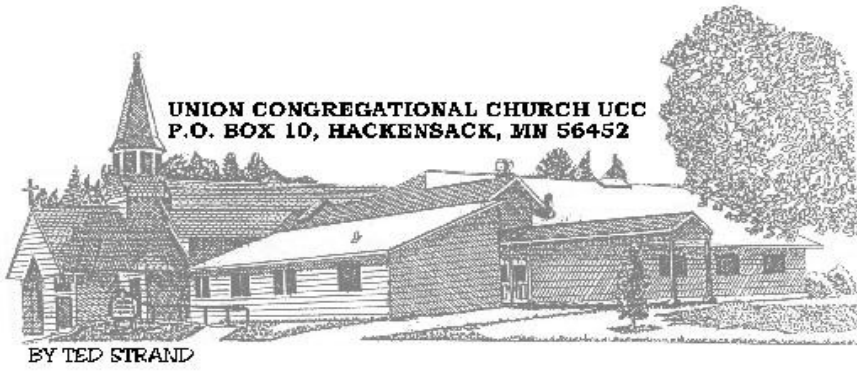


Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN

OCTOBER 2020

* = Community Event held at the church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	5 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	6 9:00am Men's Coffee 2:00pm—3:30pm Book Discussion—White Fragility (Zoom)	7 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	8 1:00pm Congregational Life 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	9	10
11 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	12 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	13 10:00am—11:30am Women's Group 2:00pm—3:30pm Book Discussion—WF (Zoom) 5:30pm Financial Team Meeting (Zoom)	14 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	15 1:00pm Council (Zoom)	16	17
18 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	19 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	20 2:00pm—3:30pm Book Discussion—White Fragility (Zoom)	21 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	22 1:00pm Fiber Arts*	23	24
25 Worship 9:30am (Website/ Facebook)	26 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study	27	28 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	29	30	31



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Treasure Sale 2021 needs your
donations!

2020

