



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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Email: unionucc401@gmail.com

Toll Free: (888) 887-4820
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NOVEMBER 2020

Notes from
Rev. Torri Vande Zande

Things I have Learned in the Last Two Years...

November 1st marks two years of being the pastor at Union Congregational Church. It has also been two years since I have moved to the Hackensack community. I have experienced many things along the way, and I would like to share a few of those things with you:

1. Wood – When I first moved here, I didn't know how to order wood for my fireplace. I had no idea what a cord was. So when I ordered wood and was asked how many cords I wanted, I didn't want to sound dumb, so I said "Two". A few days later, I arrived home to find a mountain of wood next to my shed. I now know that a cord of wood is 4ft. high, 8ft. long and 4ft deep.
2. Fire Starters – The first few weeks of trying to start a fire in my fireplace, it took me 45 minutes to get it going. I was using newspaper. But, I was informed that birch bark is the best material to start a fire. So I tried it, and sure enough, I almost burnt the house down!
3. Minnesota Insect Seasons – There are 4 seasons in Minnesota, but Minnesota also has insect seasons. In the late spring it is tick season, early summer is horse fly season, around late June and July is mosquito season, and then in early fall is tick season again. I have been told to "Just get use to it"... And I have.
4. Cold Car – I have learned that leaving my car outside in -10 degree weather—or colder—is not a good thing. The battery drains and it won't start the next day. So, I purchased a portable battery jumper just in case I don't have anyone around to help me. I have used it twice now.
5. Frozen Pipes – I have always known pipes freeze, but never experienced it until my first winter here. It was a Sunday morning and my pipes were frozen. I needed to lead a church service, so I packed up some clothes and make-up, went to church in my pajamas and got ready for the service in the bathroom.
6. Bear – I have seen two bears this past summer, and I was very excited about it. When I first moved here, I lived in a member's cabin on a lake until my rental was ready to move into. One day, the member came over to tell me that there was a bear spotted two lakes down and I needed to be aware. I took the information very seriously and told her, "Okay, I will be more aware."

Later that week I was talking with my sister on the phone and I was relaying the bear information to her. She then asked, "What does two lakes down mean?" I paused and realized... I have no idea how far two lakes down is! I still don't!

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

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
 Bell Choir Director.....Heidi Hoppe
 Organists.....Sheryl Kaubisch
 Pianist.....Kathleen Millberg, Barb Nish
 Custodian.....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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

7. Waving – One of the first things I was taught when I was interviewing to be the pastor was, “We wave here.” I was walking down the street to the Chainsaw Event and I was walking with one of the members. She waved to every car and every person standing outside. After the 4th or 5th time, she turned to me and said, “You need to know this... We wave here.” So I followed her lead and I started waving to every person and car I saw.

8. Community – I was in a member’s kitchen drinking tea one afternoon. We were having a nice discussion about the personality of the community. I will never forget her words when she said, “It don’t matter if you like someone or don’t like someone. If they need help, you help them. If they are stuck in a ditch, you pull them out. That’s what we do here.” And I never forgot those words. And it is true.

I am proud to be part of this community called Hackensack. Thank you for bringing me here and allowing me to be your pastor. I love it! And I am grateful for this community, this experience and look forward to what else God has planned for me here.

Pastor Torri

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 2 Patsy Johnson
 November 9 Janice Pfarr
 November 14 David Holle
 November 16 Debbie Hughes
 November 23 Barb Mann
 November 27 Bob Dunn
 November 30 Bob Iversen



IMPORTANT NOTICE



The church landline is fully functional again.
 Please continue to use (218) 507-1905 for emergencies.

Bible Study

Monday mornings

10:00 coffee and conversation

10:30 to 11:30 education and enquiry in the Lower Level.

MODERATOR'S NOTES

Greetings, happy November! Hackensack is welcoming the month with unusually cold temperatures and early snow. It has been a race to get all the fall chores done before freezing. We never even got a fall clean-up day at Union! But everything else is moving along.

Our community meal on Wednesday night is doing very well, serving seventy or eighty meals a week. The boards are all meeting with both in person and zoom meetings. We are getting quite good at that. The book studies on zoom have flourished. There are more small groups meeting with masks and social distancing. It is good to actually see our church friends and giggle a bit.

Our Sunday worship is still improving on line and a small group is coming in person. I can't emphasize enough our being careful with COVID. Our county's numbers are rising quickly and we must stay vigilant!

It has been difficult to stay in touch with all of our congregation this summer. I hope all of you have felt our warm sense reaching out as best we can. If you need any spiritual help in this difficult time I hope you will call church. We are all together in this, we can help each other!

Remember, kindness and patience are the thoughts of the month, hope to see you soon,

Joni



2020 ADVENT SERVICES

5:30 pm Wednesdays during Advent
Online Services Only – Streaming to both Facebook pages
Union Congregational and St. Paul's Lutheran

Union and St. Paul will continue their tradition of joint Advent services this year. Please join us online this year for a celebration with song and scripture, prayer, as we anticipate the coming of Light in the darkness.

We will have a short devotional by one of the pastors and then a recorded version of the "Holden Evening Prayer" streamed online. Services will be led by Pastor Torri Vande Zande of Union Congregational and Pastor Bob Rusert of St. Paul's Lutheran.

These services will be hosted by Union Congregational.

If you would like to watch the services, but do not have access to a computer or internet, please contact the church or Pastor Torri and we will do our best to connect you.

Dec 2 "The Candle of HOPE."

We have HOPE because God is faithful and Keeps God's promises. Romans 15:12-13 (Pastor Torri)

Dec 9 "The Candle of PREPARATION."

PREPARATION means get ready to welcome God into our world. Luke 3:4-6 (Pastor Torri)

Dec 16 "The Candle of JOY."

JOY is the promise and message of the Angels. Luke 2:7-15 (Pastor Bob)

Dec 23 "The Candle of LOVE"

LOVE is why God sent God's Son to earth to save us. John 3:16-17 (Pastor Bob)



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 15, 2020

PRESENT: *By Zoom:* Karen Holle, Tom Cox, Heidi Hoppe.
Present in Friendship Hall: Caryl Allan, Joni Kumpula, Mary Parrish, Don Hoppe, Mike Bohannon, Jo Horak. Pastor Torri was on vacation.

Joni called the meeting to order and offered a convening prayer. The agenda was approved as written. Don/Heidi. The minutes of our last meeting were accepted. Don/Tom

Pastor's Report: Pastor Torri is on vacation today. Her monthly report was accepted by Council. Torri has met Pastor Bob who has taken over leadership of St. Paul's Lutheran church in town. Pastor Bob is interested in working with Torri on Advent services this year.

Pastor Torri and the worship team have worked hard to improve the Sunday live streamed services. As technical knowledge on the team grows, the possibilities to steam in special music and guest speakers grows.

Financial Stewardship Board: Don discussed his report which includes income and expenses through the end of September. Year to date income = \$115,268 and year to date expenses = \$111,404. Once the PPP repayment is forgiven, that money (\$11,100) will be added to the total income for the year. Thirty seven pledges have been received for a total of \$87,170 for 2021. If you have not submitted your pledge please do so.

Facilities Board: The church telephone number is now working. (218-675-6300) There is a phone in the kitchen, in the secretary's office and in the pastor's office. There is no church phone downstairs.

Personnel Board: Karen and Joni will call a meeting soon to conduct annual reviews of church employees.

An Executive Board Meeting was recently held to address a number of issues. Please be thinking about possible new people who might be willing to serve on the church council for 2021-22 and beyond.

Ministry Team Reports: Congregational Life: The team recently met to discuss the people in the Congregation that we are responsible to call. We are working on a prayer telephone list to be used when important information needs to go out to the Congregation. This list would include people who do not have internet and do not get email.

Worship: Heidi reviewed the people who are helping with the Sunday services. She indicated that it would be helpful to have more ushers to make sure people don't bunch up after or before the church service. Mike Bohannon mentioned that he feels the music quality could be improved. Heidi will look into this.

The first Sunday of November (Nov. 1) will be a "service of remembrance" for those in our church community that have died in the past year.

Women's Fellowship: Linda scheduled a meeting for last week which was not attended by anyone. Joni will help Linda with the planning and advertising for the November meeting which could have a holiday theme.

Men's Fellowship: The men cleaned up Highway 40 at their last meeting.

Christian Learning: Jo mentioned that the community meal program is doing well with 152 people being served so far this fall. \$331 has been received in donations. New people come each week and many families come for meals. Thanks to Sue, Mike, Caryl, Don and others who help with this project.

Bible Study has moved indoors to the Lower Level of the church on Monday mornings.

Jo is thinking forward to the Christmas season and will work with Worship and Pastor Torri to see if there is a way to involve children in a virtual Christmas program.

Justice Ministry Team: The book study for White Fragility will be ending in another week. Several people are interested in getting involved in the next book study.

Moderator: Joni mentioned that Bone Builders will be meeting upstairs in the Friendship Hall starting Monday. Only regular members are invited to participate in "in person" meetings.

Joni has finished decorating the Sanctuary for fall. (Gorgeous!!) The Book and Thimble group will meet at the church next week.

Don Hoppe mentioned that the Lions will be using our dishwasher to clean eye glasses that have been donated before they are sent to possible recipients.

It was also suggested that at future Council meetings we add an item, “Joys and Concerns” to the regular agenda. Meeting was adjourned. Mary/Caryl. Next meeting November 19. Clerk: Karen Holle

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Mission of the Month – Neighbors in Need

A United Church of Christ sanctuary church offering immigrants refuge in the Arizona borderlands will soon be offering a place of hospitality, support and hope on the Mexican side of the border for people who find themselves deported from the United States.

The Shadow Rock UCC Sanctuary Action Team and the Rev. Ken Heintzelman, are in the process of establishing Hope Station Nogales, in Sonora, Mexico.

The thought is Hope Station can be a place of transition, a place where people who are deported but have family in the U.S. can find a meal, safe lodging and assistance. Priority will be given to individuals who have an attorney and an administrative remedy in process, and no criminal record. Hope Station will be a community in formation for people who share the goals of reuniting with their families and working, rebuilding their lives.

"The core of the Gospel is new life," said the Rev. Bill Lyons, Southwest Conference Minister. "Hope Station gives deportees a chance at new life near the border so they can stay as connected to their families as possible, mitigating the overwhelming temptation of crossing the border illegally because the only life they know is on the other side of the wall."

The Shadow Rock Sanctuary Team will be able to answer that question with the support of UCC Justice and Witness Ministries.

"Justice and Witness Ministries was pleased to be able to support Hope Station ministry through the awarding of a Neighbors in Need (NIN) grant last fall," said Bentley deBardelaben, Executive Associate, Justice and Local Church Ministries. "Our grant committee felt it was important to stand with this community who bravely offer support to people who await decisions in their pending cases within the immigration court system. Furthermore, we believed that ministries such as Hope Station could be replicated in other communities across the country that are seeing families ripped apart due to hyper-vigilant ICE agents and citizens who are fearful of people who may not look like them."

If you would like to give to the UCC Neighbors in Need Program, send a check to the Union Church at P.O. Box 10, Hackensack, MN. 56452 and mark NIN in the memo line. Or, visit the UCC Neighbors in Need website and donate on-line. Thank you.

WORSHIP NEWS

The snow began falling early this year, and although we hope for a “Second Summer”, I’m not sure whether we will be blessed with warm weather till next Spring.

Sunday morning attendance numbers are very low. We encourage anyone who feels comfortable doing so to join us at church. Masks are available at the door if you forget yours, hand sanitizer is also located at the door, and seating is restricted - we have tried to make the sanctuary as safe as possible during these trying times. Alternatively, you can watch us on Facebook, YouTube, or on the church’s website. Just search for Union Congregational Church Hackensack MN to find us.

Contact us if you have any questions or concerns or if you need any assistance. Together we can make it through.

Stay warm and stay well.

Worship Ministry Team: Heidi Hoppe, chair, Koni Kumpula, Gracee Rudkin, Caryl Allan, Sheryl Kaubisch, and Elsa McNelis

CAESAR'S TALES

Hi! My name is Caesar and I am the church dog! A few weeks ago my human and I went on a very long car ride to see her family pack. We were only gone for a few days, but when we got back home to Hackensack, I was very surprised to see snow! I love snow!

One of my favorite things to do in the snow is to make snow dog angels! They are like human snow angels, but BETTER.... Because they are shaped like ME!

I get the impression that many humans do not like having snow, but I love it! Just think of all the fun things humans and dogs can do in snow! These are my top 5 things to do in snow:

1. Run and dive into it knowing you can't get hurt. Snow hurts less than rocks!
2. Make snow dog angels... but we have already discussed this.
3. I can see where I pee. If I knew how to spell my name I would try!
4. I can bury my toys very easily, however finding them is kind of hard.
5. And this is my favorite: My human wrestles with me in it... And I always win!

So snow is fun!

I have learned there are parts of this world that do not have snow at all! That is sad. I think all humans and dogs should experience snow. Well, maybe not chihuahuas.



I think God gives us snow to remind us that there are all kinds of beautiful. Beauty can take many shapes and forms. Sunrises and sunsets are both beautiful, but they are different. Ducks and Loons are very different, but they are both very beautiful. Squirrels and rabbits are also different, and both are very delicious.... I mean beautiful!

It is the same with seasons. Spring, summer, fall and winter are all very different, but they are all very beautiful in their own ways. You just might have to look more closely sometimes.

If you would ever want to make snow angels with me sometime, I would love to do that! Have I mentioned they are my favorite thing?

Have a barky day!

Caesar

The Union Congregational Church Dog



Celebrating the Past – Myra Damm, historian

The Early Years After the Church was Built

The churches were built fairly close to each other on the Main Street which was #371 with the timeline about 1917. Our church, the Catholic Church, and St. Paul's were built fairly close in time and location. As the church membership was growing, so was the town. In the Hackensack History book, it lists a number of things that were happening in the town, which tells of the growth of the community.

The Hackensack Consolidated school, was built and finished in 1921. Electricity came to the town in 1923-24. Constable and Justice of the Peace was appointed 1st term in 1921. Dr. Button was appointed health officer. Village Hall was built in 1925. In April of 1921 the purchase of a cemetery site for \$16.00 an acre. A newspaper was being printed. Buildings on 1st St. and 2nd St. were required to be built of brick or other fireproof material. Permit for a hardware store in 1923. Two gas station permits were issued plus much more.

Growth was happening as the town struggled to become established. More business were coming, hotels were being built. It appears that most of this was in the 1920s. the three churches were growing, adding new members, and in 1927 the church was reorganized under a new constitution. The three organizations within the church at this time was Sunday School, Ladies Aid, and Young People's Society. The church membership at this time was 42. More next time.



Poetry Corner

GOD OF THE TIDES

God of the tides,
 whose faithful rhythm
 underlies our daily lives,
 help us to keep on,
 with courage and caring,
 both when we are full and fulfilled
 and in times of ebb and emptiness –
 neap and spring tides in our lives –
 within the ocean of your love.
 Amen

Jan Sutch Pickard

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Thanks be to you, God awesomely distant
 thanks for the searing of shooting stars
 the colours of the planets in the night sky
 the space and power beyond our perceiving
 which sparkles the sky of our lives with you caring.

Thanks be to you, God uncomfortably close
 giving life to dead dry things –
 the dance of pure stillness,
 the beat of our hearts,
 is your doing.

Thanks be to you, God known in a body
 who blessed as he lived
 who raised up our life
 to be gathered as one, reaching out for the kingdom.

David Coleman

CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Winter Wonderland has really arrived! Actually, it began last month with the earliest heavy snowfall in 140 years. As we move into the holiday season let's hope no more records are broken in regard to weather.

Community Meals Update

October meals were not completed at the time of this Report but estimates appear to be over 300 meals served. Largest number in one night so far was 88 – and we do it on a weekly basis! We are so proud of Union Church for serving this need in our community! The work of people in giving hands -on time, donations, prayers, and more is appreciated! Remember, Love Your Neighbor As Yourself!

Sunday, November 1, is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Please take time to set clocks early. It prevents surprises! As we recognize this fact, the Christian Learning Team has made the decision to expand the hours of meal service to 4:00-5:30 PM.

Hopefully, this will assist with driving after dark but also those who have a need for a later pick-up. First date on new schedule will be Wednesday, November 4th. Join us for a hot, healthy meal whenever you can. Please text Sue or call Jo to reserve or let us know special diet needs.

Monday Morning Bible Study Has A New Location

We now meet in Union Church Lower Level. We have made a very cozy setting where we can wear masks, practice social distancing, and share lessons and prayers. We have conversations and more from 10:00-10:30 AM. Lessons are 10:30-11:30 AM.

All study materials are provided and everyone is welcome.

Treasure Sale Updates

This is an ongoing project of the Christian Learning Program to support our Youth and Families. The VBS Program, Mission Trip Activities, special events like the Heart of Christmas are supported by this project. Donations are being accepted on a year round basis. Cindy G. and Heidi H. will arrange the delivery/receipt of sale items. Donation forms are available in the Lower Level. Please check your homes, garages, yards, and other areas for items someone has been looking for but you no longer require. Remember, all things can be someone else's Treasure! June Sale dates are on Union Church calendar.

Meanwhile, enjoy Winter to the best of your ability and smile as often as you can. Our Creator is watching over all with Love!

The Christian Learning Team

Women's Fellowship November 12th 1:00PM



Hey! Want to join us for coffee and fun and giggles in the Friendship Hall at one o'clock? Masks and social distancing will be done. If you would like to get out for a bit and feel you can we will be having a good time. No work just conversation. It has been a while so let's try it again!

Linda and Joni

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Winter has begun early in the Northwoods. Leaves have pretty well fallen and although the Tamarack still have some golden needles, they will soon fall. We had our first snow a few days ago and 5 – 7 inches are forecast for today. I am already thinking about cross-country skiing and snowshoeing!

Stewardship Month at Union Congregational Church is done, and we sincerely thank everyone who 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 39 pledges for a total of \$89,024. We hope to receive 44 pledges or more, and our goal is \$120,000.

September revenue was less than last year, but not significantly. Union Church has also begun in-church worship with safety protocols, and it is good to see others in worship. We continue to broadcast our worship services on Facebook Live, YouTube, and on the Union Church website.

Strong giving by non-will be essential to our

pledging units and completion of pledges by pledging units by year end ability to meet our revenue projections for this year.

How can you donate to numerous of ways to do

Union Church, without being physically at Union Church? There are this.

1. Write a check and mail it to Union Congregational Church, UCC; Attn. Financial Secretary; PO Box 10; Hackensack MN 56452
2. Set up a scheduled electronic funds transfer payment of pledge or donation amount through you bank or credit union. Talk to them and fill out an ACH form and get it signed by the church.
3. Talk to your bank or credit union about Check Free or Bill Pay services that they may offer.
4. Make payment of pledge, donations, or gifts from your IRA, 401(K) or other retirement saving plans. These donations may be tax free; check with your financial advisor.

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.

Christ's Love and Peace to You,

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

Men's Fellowship November 3rd 9:00AM

Men's Fellowship 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.

kokoro CORNER

Kokoro Corner

POETRY AT KOKORO

Thank you to all who attended our first Zoom poetry event! We heard poetry from five poets: Sara Chaffee-Bates, Tim Hoppe, EvanJ, Janet Sterk, and Greg Webb. Twenty-four people gathered on Zoom for the poetry hour, mostly local, and some from as far away as Napa Valley and Gainesville, Florida. From the comments we've received, it sounds like it was a much-enjoyed event! We plan to have another in the not too distant future.

As poets were busy in the zoom chat that night, commenting on and enjoying each other's gifts, the idea came up to have a monthly *Zoom Gathering of Poets for the purpose of poets sharing and celebrating each other's poetry*.

The first *Gathering of Poets is via Zoom on Monday, November 2, 2020 from 7pm-8pm. Poets will meet the first Monday of each month at 7pm. This is a closed group with space for one or two more poets. If writing poetry is your thing and you would like to gather with a small group of like-minded souls, send us an email at kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com or call Kiki at (218) 831-0942.*

PEACE CONCERT

We regret to announce, in the interest of public safety, the peace concert will not be held in December this year. Our thoughts are to get together for our annual concert as soon as it is safe to gather in community again.

POP UP EVENTS

We have some surprise pop-up events happening online! Stay-tuned. More info coming on Kokoro's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/kokoroperformingarts> :)

Hope everyone is doing well. We are all in this together and will eventually make it through to the light. We're hanging in there with you. Keep safe and stay strong! <3

Peace to all,

Kiki



3 Haiku by Tim Hoppe

The lonely loon cry
Sunset glimmers on the waves
Our hearts are content

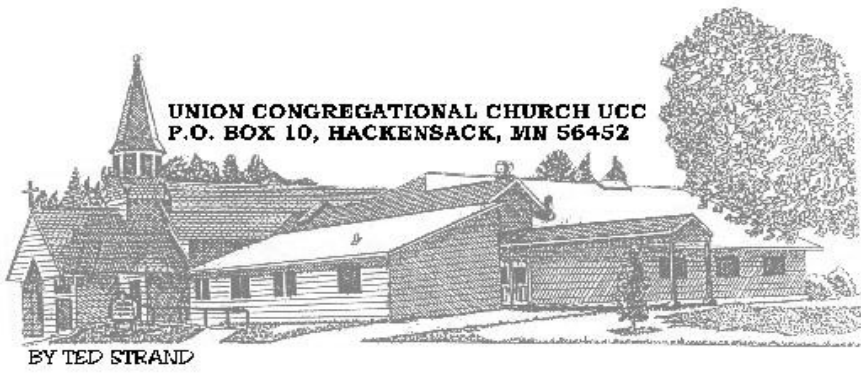
Hats gloves scarves and snow
Layer on layer of fun
City folks don't know

Terminal moraines
Oxbow lakes and peat bogs
Like the old country

Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN
NOVEMBER 2020

* = Community Event held at the church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship 9:30am	2 9:00am Men's Fellowship	3 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	4 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	5 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	6	7
8 Worship 9:30am	9 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm AA Meeting*	10 5:30pm Financial Team Meeting (Zoom)	11 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	12	13	14
15 Worship 9:30am	16 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm AA Meeting*	17	18 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	19 1:00pm Council (Zoom)	20	21
22 Worship 9:30am	23 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm AA Meeting*	24	25 4:00pm-5:30pm Community Meal	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 Worship 9:30am	30 10:30am—12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm AA Meeting*					



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FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED



Advent Calendar inside!

Mission of the Month:
Neighbors in Need

2020

