



# 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](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com)

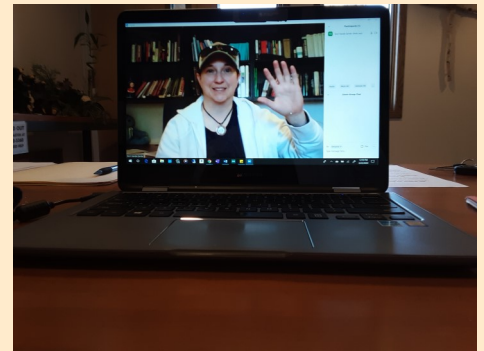
Toll Free: (888) 887-4820  
Emergency Phone: (218) 507-1905



Notes from  
Rev. Torri Vande Zande



Zoom is the leading video communication company in the world right now. Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, people are figuring out ways to stay connected and continue business meetings and social gatherings. Zoom seems to be one of the ways to do this. For those of you who are not familiar with Zoom, it's like having a conference phone call with video. You need internet and either a computer or smart phone to access it, but it is a great way to stay connected to friends and family.



I have been doing Zoom meetings for the past few weeks, and it has been going well. I have had several meetings with other pastors and conference leaders in Minnesota over Zoom and it has been helpful to keep connection with those who I cannot see in person right now. It has also helped me connect with people who I've never met before. It has been a great tool to use during this time.

Our church had our first leadership council meeting over Zoom a few weeks ago. I was pleasantly surprised that it went so well. No one had to be muted! □ We got a lot of business done and it was nice to see everyone's faces.

With having such a good experience with Zoom, Union Congregational is organizing a few different Zoom small groups.

- Zoom "Friendship Groups" – A small group of people getting together to chat.
- Zoom "Bible Studies" – A discussion group focused on studying the bible.

If you are interested in being part of one or more of these groups, please email Pastor Torri at [torrivz@gmail.com](mailto:torrivz@gmail.com) or the church at [unionucc401@gmail.com](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com). You can also call Pastor Torri at 563-320-5360. If you are local and would like to be involved but do not have internet or a computer (or a smart phone) to access Zoom, please contact Pastor Torri and we can figure out a way to connect you.

I hope all of you are staying well and safe. We will all be together soon.

In Christ Alone,

Pastor Torri

**Sunday Worship at 9:30 A.M.**

**Communion: First Sunday each Month  
Coffee and Fellowship Following Service at 10:30 A.M.**

**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

**MODERATOR’S NOTES**

Hi, well here we are in the middle of shelter in place, wear a mask, don’t touch your face. It really is quite tolerable and comfortable up here in the woods. We are relatively comfortable in our homes with lots to be thankful for. I can sit with coffee or wine and watch the lake and nature. I know everyone isn’t so lucky. It’s a time when we who are can try to help those who are not. There are many ways we can help and I hope you have found some. I have made some masks and delivered them with cookies. I have visited with social distancing and made lots of phone calls and of course Zooming. I find lots of smiles and giggles with that besides work. There is also huge amounts of outside work to be done this time of year.

Union is moving along quite well. Lots of computer and phone work. Our worship services are online and boards are meeting on Zoom. Thanks to Sue J. and Mike B. our Wednesday meals are serving the area well. I hope you are all communicating with your church friends, that’s important too. The church got quite a lot of publicity when KAXE did a program on the Hackensack area. Chris Biessner talked about the realtors views and the Game Changers. Kiki Webb talked about the Kokoro Music School and I was the person of interest. I’m still not sure that I’m very interesting, but it was fun. You can listen to it on KAXE, Grand Rapids and Katy Kelley’s show.

Well I must run along and get some outside work done. Stay home and stay healthy!

Lets talk, Joni

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- May 6 Mary Parrish
- May 12 Lisa VanVickle
- May 16 Dolly Olsen
- May 18 Randy Vosbeck
- May 19 Al Griggs  
Barbara Lyall  
Megan McGill Shaner
- May 20 Sarah Hoppe
- May 21 Joel Jader
- May 22 Mary Hertzman
- May 24 Louise Brandt  
Marty Mann
- May 25 Rick Adams
- May 26 Bill Brandt  
Wendy Cline



## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### Union Church in this time of Distancing and Separation

As we move through this period of concern, separation, change, and uncertainty, we know that we should not be gathering in close proximity to one another, but that does not mean we are not still the church. Union Church is different right now – very few gatherings, meetings, or comings and goings at the church building. I just looked at the church calendar for April as it was planned and programmed, and I realize how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we are doing our ministry and how much things have changed.

April was a busy time for Pastor Torri. Lenten, Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Easter and regular Sunday services. Preparing for these worship times, calling people, meeting, sometimes electronically, with church boards and ministry team, practicing the music that she was using in worship, and studying, thinking, and praying about how Union Church can and will adjust to the new normal.

We continue to prepare and send out our newsletter, we broadcast our worship services on Facebook Live and then edit and post them on the Union Church website. The Church Council, Boards and Ministry Teams meet and plan and keep the church functioning and preparing for the future. Persons call and deliver items to church member and friends.

The Community Meal program continues but has changed and increased. Meals are now prepared for about 60 persons. These are picked up curbside or in some cases delivered by volunteers. There is a core of 3 or 4 people who do all the work. Many more have volunteered to help, but for safety and distancing reasons, it has been decided that this is how this ministry should be done.

As you can see, Union Church is not “closed”, it is just different and feels a little strange. We continue to pay our Pastor and staff to keep the church running.

Since I am writing this as Chair of the Board of Financial Stewardship, I will let you know what we are doing and thinking about at this time.

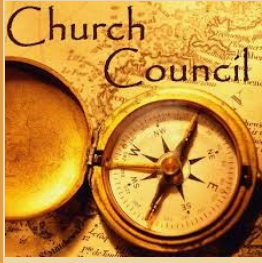
- The Church Council approved an application for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan. This was completed and submitted on April 20. This loan will hopefully be approved and give Union some relief for payroll expenses for an 8 week period.
- We are looking at and concerned about the effects that social distancing and the long-term uncertainty of the corona virus will have on the financial situation of Union Church.
- We are exploring options by which we can increase the earning potential of reserve funds currently held in low-earning savings accounts and CD's, while limiting risk.
- We now have a “Donate” button on our website and links to it on our Facebook page. Persons can now make credit card or PayPal account donations. We hope that this will be used by those that are seeing our on-line worship and viewing our website and Facebook page. ***Because of fees charged, this should not be used to pay pledges or sustained giving.***

How can you donate to Union Church, without being physically at Union Church? There are numerous of ways to do this:

1. Write a check and mail it to:

Union Congregational Church, UCC  
Attn. Financial Secretary  
PO Box 10  
Hackensack MN 56452

**(continues on page 5)**



## COUNCIL MEETING – APRIL 16, 2020

**PRESENT by ZOOM:** Tom Cox, Karen Holle, Joni Kumpula, Torri Vande Zande, Don Hoppe, Caryl Allen, Mike Bohanon, Heidi Hoppe, Ron Merritt, Sarah Cox, Linda Merritt, Sabbastian Wilson-Webb.

Joni called the meeting to order. Pastor Torri offered a convening prayer. The agenda was approved as written. Minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

**Pastor's Monthly Report:** Torri reported that she has been connecting with people via Facebook, phone calls, and Zoom. She and several others went to Burton's house earlier this month to sing to him on his birthday and to offer birthday wishes. Several of our congregation do not have internet and cannot listen to services. We are all concerned about staying connected with these people during the coronavirus pandemic.

Torri will probably move services from her home back to the sanctuary where the internet service is better and where there will not be background street noise to contend with. Torri is also interested in getting game nights and other activities going again – perhaps with the help of Zoom. Torri will also use the Library entrance to her office so that she is not coming in contact with people in the church office.

**Financial Stewardship Board:** Don reported that we have received the Fetzer grant of \$12,000. This money has been deposited in our operating budget and brings us to a total income this year of \$51,652. Don expects between \$11,000 and \$12,000 to come in to the church in April. Our expenses this year so far are \$34,805.

**Food shelf donations:** A total of \$5,976 was collected during March for the food shelves. Walker food shelf received \$1465 and the Hackensack food shelf received \$4,511.

Don is working on having a PayPal account so that we can have a donate button on our website. The cost per donation is 30 cents per transaction and 2.2% of the donation goes to PayPal. This is the lowest cost option for us to encourage donations on-line to the church.

**PPP Loan:** Don presented information to the Council about The Paycheck Protection Program – a program which makes forgivable loans to small businesses to pay their employees during the COVID-19 crisis. The loan proceeds will be forgiven as long as the monies are used to cover payroll costs, utilities, rent or mortgage interest as long as employee and compensation levels are maintained. Union Church as a faith based organization qualifies and can apply for this loan. Applications are made to our local bank. Currently the money for this program has all been used, but more money may be designated from the Federal Government for this project. Don would like to apply for a \$11,153 loan that could be entirely forgiven, or might need to be paid back at an extremely low interest rate. The loan provides a safety net for the church during this difficult time.

**Don moved to apply for a PPP loan through the Cares Act. Tom seconded/passed. Don also will move \$20,000 of money in our savings account into the stock market. Tom/Ron/passed.**

**Facilities:** Ron reported that the church incurred roof leaks in February and April due to snow and ice melting which caused ice dams and water damage to the inside of the building. We have a quote of \$7,320 to add insulation in some areas of the roof and to improve air flow by venting the soffits that surround the Sanctuary. Ron is also concerned that we have four heating and air conditioning systems that are 20 years old and are beginning to rust out. We have an estimate of \$18,520 to replace furnaces #6 and #7 which heat the Music Room and Library. The other two furnaces are electronically operated and serve the Friendship Hall. We do not have a quote for the replacement of these furnaces yet.

Council authorized Ron to move forward on the replacement of the furnaces #6 and #7. Don indicated that we have the funds in our reserve MRI account for that project. Council also authorized Ron to have the soffit and insulation work done on the roof as soon as it can be done.

**Personnel Board:** Pastor Torri feels she and Sabbastian are working well together, despite the fact that they are both working remotely. Sabbastian has time for more work and Don suggested a project organizing the music that is stored in the music room. Don will talk to Sabbastian about the project.

**Ministry Team Reports: Worship:** Pastor Torri is adding a service on Wednesday evenings that will start after Easter.

**Women's Fellowship:** Linda discussed the possibility of "visiting" folks by driving over in separate cars to the homes of folks that would be willing to sit outside and visit from a distance. She also thinks we could continue our blanket project in the

Friendship Hall and maintain social distancing.

**Christian Learning:** Jo was not present at this meeting as she was having trouble with the Zoom program. She sent her information by e-mail. A decision on whether or not to have Vacation Bible Schools will be made by May 1st. Other churches have re-scheduled or cancelled programs for this summer. **At today's meeting Council passed a recommendation that VBS not be held this year due to concerns about the coronavirus. Don/Heidi**

The Treasure Sale scheduled for June 10-13 to overlap with Sacred Heart Vendor Sale could be rescheduled. Organizers at Sacred Heart are not yet sure the June date will happen. The July 8th date is more likely. If we rescheduled our sale to coincide with the July date we could have more prep time and also benefit from Sweetheart Days visitors.

Scholarship Ministry Team has received several applications for our scholarship and will make a decision by May 1st.

Community Meals Pick-up and Delivery Program is running well. To date we have supplied 235 meals to families, elders, and home bound. Thanks to Team Members Sue, Mike, Jo, Don, and Caryl and Pastor Torri. Approximately \$1,000 to date in donations may enable us to provide service until end of May. This is an example of Christian Love in action!

Meeting Adjourned. Clerk, Karen Holle

*(continued from page 3)*

2. Set up a scheduled electronic fund transfer payment of pledge or donation amount through you bank or credit union. Talk to them and fill out 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 have.
4. Make payment of pledge, donations, or gifts from your IRA, 401(K) or other retirement saving plans. You can make donations, tax free to you, to Union Church from these accounts. Such payments are usually made on semi-annual or annual basis. This type of donation also counts toward you RMD amount. (These donations cannot also be included in deductions on your taxes.)

We hope that you stay healthy and safe and 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. Let us be open to and embrace these changes.

Love and Peace to You,

Don Hoppe, Chair of the Board of Financial Stewardship

### Women's Fellowship Update

The Counsel has agreed to open the Church up for working on Blankets and Prayer Bears; however, it will be a little different. We will work only with 2-3 people at a time and at the proper distance. To participate, contact Linda at (218) 252-9237 between 10am and 4pm to schedule times. We are also thinking of getting small groups together to work on plantings outside, as well as, just getting together to enjoy the outside and chat. We are open to any other ideas that you might have or would like to do.





## CAESAR'S TALES

Hi, my name is Caesar and I am the church dog! I have been very confused lately because I have not seen human friends. It makes me wonder where they all went:

- Did they go for a long walk and not take me along?
- Did they go for a ride in their cars and not think of inviting me?
- Maybe they all decided to eat treats somewhere where I can't go... like the kitchen?

Wherever they are, I hope they are okay. I miss them.

Lately it has just been my human and I... and of course Bandit (the cat) hanging out at home. We go for walks and car rides a lot, but mostly we stay home. My human says we need to "stay" and I am very good at "staying".

My human has been talking to me more lately too. I think it's because she does not have other humans to talk to sometimes. She has been talking a lot to her little black box that she carries around with her. She calls it a phone. I do not understand most of the words she says, but I do pick up a few that I know. Words like, "stay" and "wait", are two words she says often... both to me and the black box.

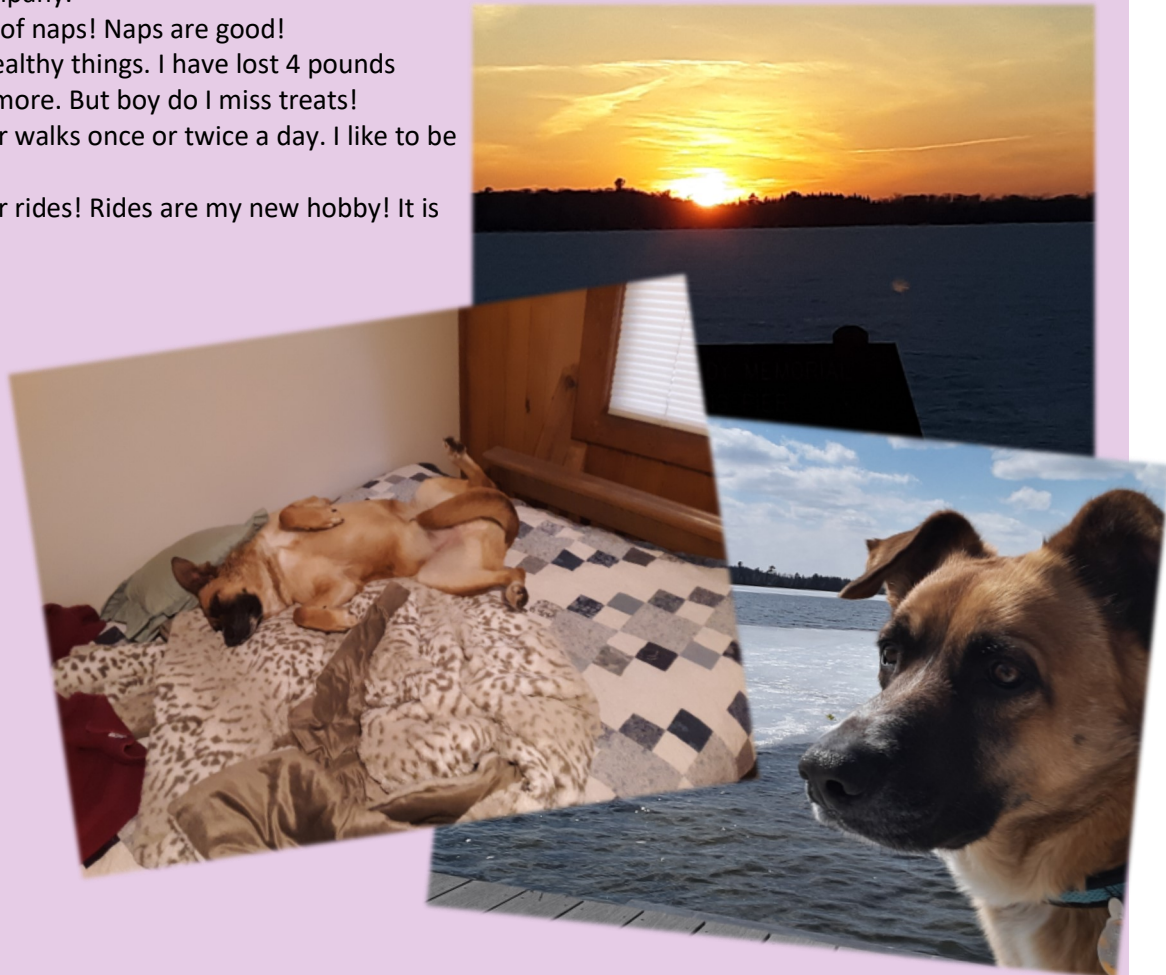
My routine has changed over this past month. Sometimes I get stressed or anxious about this new routine, but I have learned to do some things that help me calm my insides down. I would like to share them with you!

1. I interact with my human several times a day! I know I must stay social or I get sad and cranky. I connect with my human and just enjoy the company.
2. I take naps! I take a lot of naps! Naps are good!
3. My human feeds me healthy things. I have lost 4 pounds since we have been home more. But boy do I miss treats!
4. My human takes me for walks once or twice a day. I like to be outside whenever I can.
5. My human takes me for rides! Rides are my new hobby! It is my mission to look for critters such as deer, chipmunks and of course my favorite...SQUIRRELS!

These are some of the things I have found helpful for me during this time when I don't see human friends. I know I will soon see them again, but for now I must "stay" and "wait".

Have a barky day!

Caesar "The church dog"



## Celebrating the Past – Myra Damm, historian

### Hackensack History – The Beginning

In the Hackensack 100 year history book, I found this information about early, early Hackensack and our church forming.

Here are some excerpts from the Hackensack book:

When Lathrop died around 1896, some of the residents moved to Hackensack, In 1902 James Curo and Bye Bartlett settled here and succeeded in getting Hackensack on the map of the area. Legend has it they named the town after Hackensack, New Jersey because the mosquitos were as numerous and big as those in their hometown. In 1904 William J. Spain Sr., surveyor made the first plat of Hackensack. This is also the year the train depot was moved from Lothrop to Hackensack. This is the year the congregational church started meeting in local homes. By 1907 they were officially organized. They were meeting in the Otterson hotel.

Most of our “oldtimers” came during a surge of pioneers from 1911 to 1920. It is also the time when the other “original” churches got started. Sacred Heart Catholic Church began meeting in Charlie wood’s hotel and warehouse around 1910. St. Paul’s began meeting in homes about the same time.

Union Congregational built the first church in 1917, Sacred Heart built their church in 1919, as St. Paul’s built their first building in the same year.

The major occupations of the day were logging, lumber milling, fur farming, sheep farming and selling cream to a dairy in Duluth.

There is more information about our early years in the church section of this history.

## Worship News

Dear friends, I hope this newsletter finds you well and you are enjoying your self-imposed isolation. It has been a bit worrying and not a little frustrating here in Hackensack. Fortunately, we are located in a beautiful rural area where we can take a long walk whenever the weather cooperates. I hope you are also able to get outside and breathe fresh air!

If you follow us on Facebook or on our website ([unioncchackensack.com](http://unioncchackensack.com)), you know a few new changes have been made in our Sunday morning worship experience. In order to have a better internet connection, it was decided to return to the sanctuary to broadcast the service. A few of us are gathering (at a safe physical distance!) to help Pastor Torri put together a richer and fuller experience. It is fun, and I hope as the weeks progress and the tight restrictions are lifted, more of us can gather together. However, realistically, I’m afraid that until a vaccine is readily available, our most vulnerable friends and neighbors should continue to remain isolated for safety sake.

Be well, stay safe, and give praises for all our many blessings.

Heidi Hoppe, Team Chair

## CHRISTIAN LEARNING

During these unusual times when things seem to be changing from day to day it is comforting to know that the Love we receive from God and Faith in our future is constant. The Christian Learning Team is doing these activities to support church and community members:

### Community Meal Wednesdays

We are continuing but in different way. Instead of gathering downstairs we are using our Upper Kitchen to serve hot meals for pick-up or delivery. Reservations should be made by Tuesday at noon before a Wednesday meal. Contact Sue or Jo (651-274-2145) to confirm pick-up or delivery, number of meals, and any food allergies. Meals will be brought to your car, so no need to get out. Hot, healthy meals with dessert provided at no cost. Donations gratefully accepted. We have served about 60 meals to kids and adults each week.

The Community Meal Team is Sue as Head Chef, Mike as Assistant Chef, Jo as Prep/Pick-up, Drivers Don and Car-yl. We observe all safe kitchen methods and healthy guidelines as we provide these meals. The Team is kept small to make it easier to observe social distancing. We hug you in our hearts, though.

Since the need is great, we plan to continue the Community Meal Program to the end of May this year. Thank you all for your donations to this mission work of Union Church. It makes it possible to let the Light shine in our world!

### Treasure Sale Reschedules for July

Another event that is changing is our annual Treasure Sale to benefit the Youth and Families Program. This four day sale has been rescheduled for **July 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th**. The Sacred Heart vendors sale is July 8th. Sweetheart Days is also celebrated that week so we hope many visitors will be available to attend all events. The Treasure Sale is gathering items already. Please check with Cindy for details.

### Scholarship Ministry Team

Union Church has sponsored awards to graduating seniors for college or other higher educational expenses for many years. All seniors are eligible.

Two \$1,000 awards are given based on applications by students. An Announcement of Award will be made in Spring 2020. However, actual funds are not distributed until the student has completed a first quarter, semester, or other time frame at an accepted institution. A GPA of 2.0 or above is needed. Because of unusual circumstances due to COVID-19, many schools are still working on ceremony plans. Union Church will work with those institutions in the awards process. Prayers go to all students and school staff in the educational system now. Special blessings to parents and family at this time as well.

### VBS Space Explorers Cancelled

After much discussion, we regret the June VBS program will not be held this year. Materials and activities are to be carried over to 2021. A wonderful VBS plan had been developed but we can make it even stronger by next year. The Program usually ends at 8th grade. However, youth entering 8th grade this year will have an extra, one-time year of eligibility to join the 2021 VBS.

Dates for next year are pending at this time. We miss you and hope to see you all next Summer!

A special October Visiting Wizards Mission Trip is still on for October at this time. Other Youth Events for Summer and Fall are in the works.

**Monday Morning Bible Study Group** has received new Spring/Summer materials distributed by Bonnie and Joe. Thank you both! While we do not meet physically, we gather spiritually in study and prayer. If you wish to join us, please contact Bonnie M. for materials. Otherwise, all you need is a willing heart and a delicious snack. Oh Joy!

May the beauty of Spring Music lift your spirits and give you Peace. We will gather at the river, the lake, and even the ponds soon. Welcome back all God's Creatures!

-The Christian Learning Team



## **COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) RESOURCES IN OUR AREA**

by Karen Holle

### **Meal Help in Our Area**

#### **Pine River**

Mondays 4:00-6:00pm at Riverview – curbside only  
310 Norway Avenue, Pine River, 587-2021

#### **Backus**

Thursdays 4:00-6:00pm  
at Pine Mountaineer Senior Center  
131 Front ST N, Backus, (218) 947-3844

Call ahead if picking up more than 12 meals.

#### **Hackensack**

Wednesdays 4:00–5:30pm  
at Union Congregational Church  
401 Lake Ave E  
Call ahead if possible to Jo: (651) 274-2145

Free will offering.

### **Food Shelves in Our Area**

#### **Share and Care – Hackensack**

Open 2nd and 4th Monday each month.

If emergency food box is needed call (218) 675-5862.

#### **Lakeside Baptist**

New food pantry (218) 947-4955  
lakesidebaptist125@gmail.com

#### **Meals on Wheels**

Call the Walker Nutritional Site at (218) 547-4181 if you want to get into this program.

Two meals a day will be provided and they will be delivered to your door each week. Charge is based on your ability to pay, and could be free to you!

### **How to Follow the Sermon on the Mount Without Becoming a Wimp**

Join this unique Bible Study to learn seven powerful tools for living peacefully found in the Sermon on the Mount. Create meaningful relationships by changing conflict from a contest to a joint effort. See the Sermon on the Mount not as unattainable proscriptions about behavior, but as a radical new road map for living in community.

Marilyn McKnight and Steve Erickson, professional mediators at Erickson Mediation Institute, will present a Bible Study four Tuesdays starting on May 12th at 2:00 pm. These one hour zoom meetings will examine the Sermon on the Mount from their perspective as professional mediators who have used the message as a framework for their teaching conflict resolution skills and for use in their mediation work.

If you would like more information about how to join, please email the church at [unionucc401@gmail.com](mailto:unionucc401@gmail.com).

# EXPRESS YOURSELF HOME EDITION

# OPEN MIC



# & HAPPY HOUR

**JOIN US LIVE ONLINE! MAY 22nd at 7pm**

**PERFORMERS & ATTENDEES**

Free registration! Call (218) 831-0942 or  
email: [kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com](mailto:kokoroperformingarts@gmail.com)

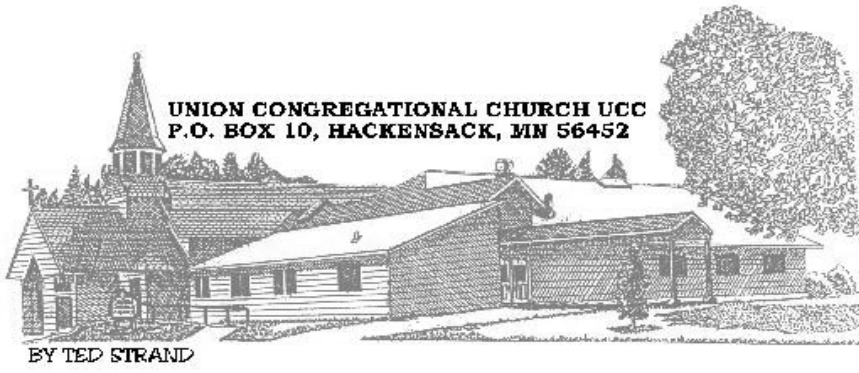


# Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN

# MAY 2020

\* = Community Event held at the church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Worship 9:30am (Facebook)	4	5	6 2:00pm Justice Team Ministry Meeting (Zoom) 4:00pm Community Table Pickup/Delivery 5:30 Stories with Torri (Facebook)	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:30am (Facebook)	11	12 2:00pm—3:00pm Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30pm Financial Team Meeting (Zoom)	13 5:30 Story Time with Torri (Facebook) 4:00pm Community Table Pickup/Delivery 5:30 Stories with Torri (Facebook)	14	15	16
17 Worship 9:30am (Facebook)	18	19 2:00pm—3:00pm Bible Study (Zoom)	20 4:00pm Community Table Pickup/Delivery 5:30 Stories with Torri (Facebook)	21 1:00pm Council (Zoom)	22	23
24 Worship 9:30am (Facebook)	25	26 2:00pm—3:00pm Bible Study (Zoom)	27 4:00pm Community Table Pickup/Delivery 5:30 Stories with Torri (Facebook)	28	29	30
31						



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HACKENSACK, MN  
PERMIT NO 5

**FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED**



Look inside for thoughts and resources concerning these odd times.  
Union Church now has an online giving page! Look inside for more details.

**2020**

