



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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Pastor: Rev. Torri Vande Zande

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JUNE 2022

Notes from Rev. Torri Vande Zande

Sermon on the Mount

This summer, our congregation will embark on a journey through the "Sermon on the Mount." This famous sermon given by Jesus can be found in chapters 5-7 in the Gospel According to Matthew and gives some of the most practical teachings within the entire bible. But there is a problem; the teaching Jesus gives is not easy to live out.

Jesus speaks of the poor in spirit inheriting the kingdom of heaven, and the meek will inherit the earth. This does not seem possible in 2022, and I don't believe it seemed possible in Jesus' day either. Jesus was asking His followers to live in an upside-down world.

Jesus' teaching goes against the basic human instinct. If someone judges us, we want to judge them. If someone hurts us, we want to hurt them back. If someone physically assaults us, we want to assault them back. But that is not what Jesus wants of His people. Some of the statements Jesus makes are: "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged," "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," and "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also." Great ideas! But can they be put into practice? Well, we are going to find out.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

Communion: First Sunday each 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
Custodian.....	Sue Johnson

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator.....	Mike Bohanon
Vice-Moderators.....	Marilyn McKnight & Steve Erickson
Clerk.....	Karen Holle
Board of Financial Stewardship.....	Don Hoppe
Ministry Teams:	
Community Meals.....	Jo Horak
Congregational Life.....	Joni Kumpula
Facilities.....	Mike Bohanon and Ron Merritt
Personnel.....	Marilyn McKnight
Worship.....	Heidi Hoppe
Men's Fellowship.....	Stan Kumpula
Women's Fellowship.....	Joni Kumpula
Outreach.....	Karen Holle
Treasure Sale.....	Cindy Gulbrandson
Justice Ministry Team.....	Sue Kimmel

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Our friends (and current moderators at Union Congregational) Steve Erickson and Marilyn McKnight will help lead this series in an effort to create tangible steps people can take in order to live out the Sermon on the Mount. Steve and Marilyn are co-founders of Erickson Mediation Institute in Minneapolis, MN and have been using the principles from the Sermon on the Mount to lead in their mediations and bring people through conflict and finding peace with others.

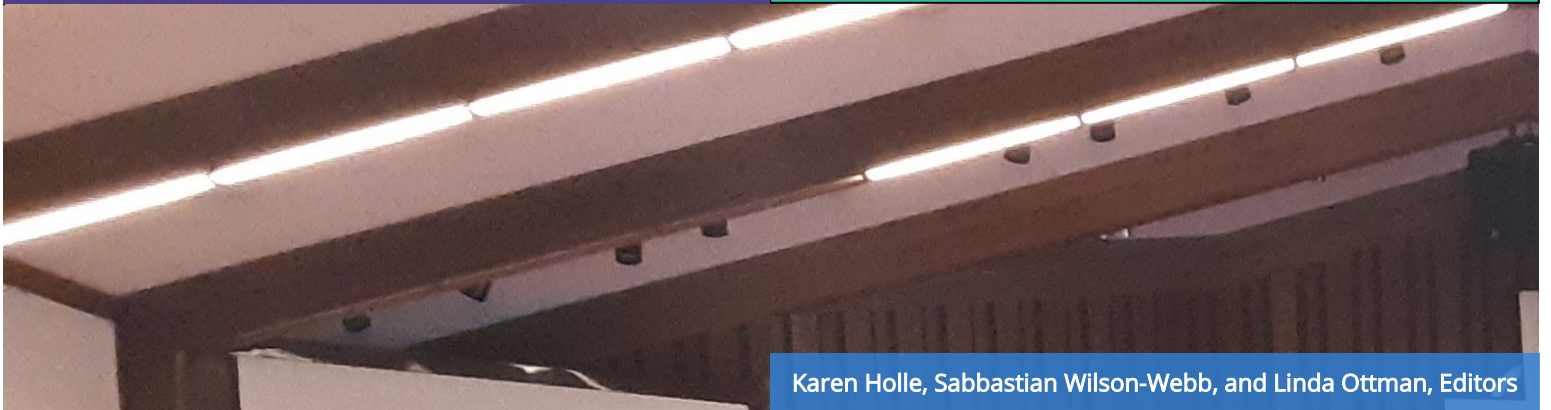
This series begins on Sunday, June 5th at 9:30 a.m. at our church service at Union Congregational. I hope you all can join us either in person or through streaming. I am looking forward to teaching and preaching alongside of them.

Pastor Torri

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1	Bert Wiersma
June 3	Vernon Peterson
June 10	Sheila Hunter
	Candace Strawn
June 16	Luise Forseth
	Joni Kumpula
June 19	Pat Pomeroy
June 20	Sue Johnson
June 27	Cindy Gulbrandson
June 28	Don Olsen

Happy Birthday



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

YOUTH AND FAMILY

The Hackensack Café Adventures Scavenger Hunt!

July 14th

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Union Congregational Church

We welcome the author Norrie Thomas as she kicks off this event by reading her book to the kids. Then Union Church will facilitate a community scavenger hunt based on the book!

After the event, kids and parents are invited to a cookout in the Friendship Hall.

Adult leaders are needed in a number of areas. We need:

Group Leaders

Station Leaders

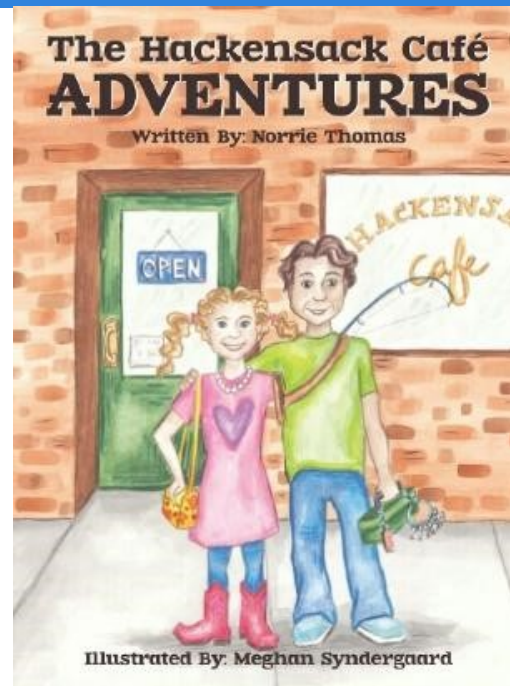
Kitchen Crew

Registration Helpers

We are beginning to promote.

We are recruiting volunteers.

This community event is in partnership and collaboration with the Hackensack Lending Library.



TREASURE SALE

This year's Treasure Sale will be held Wednesday thru Saturday, June 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. The hours are 8 AM to 6 PM. It's a big fundraiser for our church, so if you have anything to donate, please bring it in soon or let me know if you need help. And if you can donate a few hours during the sale, please contact Heidi to sign up for a shift. Many thanks to all who have donated items and/or time. We couldn't do it without you!

Also, on Saturday we will have a five dollar bag sale starting at noon. Anything you can fit into a brown grocery paper bag goes for five dollars.

If you have anything you would like to donate to the Treasure Sale it can be brought to the church at any time. Items may be brought into the church and put in the storage room downstairs. Cindy is available to help if you need assistance.

Thank You

Blessings,

Cindy Gulbrandson (612-232-2760), and

Heidi Hoppe (218-831-3927),

Co-chairs





COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 10, 2022

PRESENT: Marilyn Erickson, Steve Erickson, Torri Vande Zande, Karen Holle, Heidi Hoppe, Sue Kimmel, Cindy Gulbrandson, Mike Schmitt, Mary Parrish, Joni Kumpula, Stan Kumpula, Ron Merritt, Don Hoppe

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

The agenda was approved as written. Mary/Joni. The minutes were approved. Mary/Heidi.

Pastor's Monthly Report: Pastor Torri talked a bit about the forum she will be leading on June 26 called "Union Beyond Covid." Torri's goal is to show people the vibrant life of this congregation and our passion for our community. She will discuss the changes Union has made and how we are adapting to life after COVID. She will give people an opportunity to see where they fit into the life of our church. And she will give us an opportunity to dream and plan with her.

Pastor Torri also spoke about the work she has been doing this month focusing on memorial services and committee work and community involvement.

Financial Stewardship Board: Don reviewed the income and expense report for April and also the year-to-date income and expenses. For the first quarter of 2022 year-to-date giving has been \$29,182 and expenses have been \$49,882, giving us a negative YTD balance of -\$16,803. Because we had a carryover of \$14,710 from 2021, our net income is \$943. Fetzer money will be arriving soon which will help our financial situation. Motion to accept Don's financial report was approved. Stan/Joni

Facilities: Ron reported that a new hot water heater has been installed for \$5,827. This is an on-demand system that will only heat water as we need it. East end doors will be replaced as soon as the new doors are available for installation.

Personnel: Marilyn reported that she has completed a new church hiring process. She is also working on job descriptions for our church positions.

Congregational Life: Joni spoke of the wonderful service we hosted recently for Carl Larson and the upcoming memorial for Margaret Brown. Joni is always concerned about our older members who are not able to attend services and is very good about calling them. She encouraged us to wear our name tags at worship and in the Friendship Hall. We have new people at our services every Sunday. Also, please sign up to provide treats for a Sunday!!

Worship: Karen asked today if we could change from passing the peace in sign language to speaking the words of the ritual and bumping elbows with each other instead of shaking hands. This was agreed upon. Torri mentioned that we really need to purchase a couple of portable microphones for people who read scripture or perform at a service. Mike Schmitt felt we could purchase a pair for \$300 - \$400. Council agreed to purchase these items. Joni/Don/passed.

Adult Learning: Linnea Dietrich has agreed to chair this important ministry team. She will begin attending Council meetings sometime this summer and will begin to plan adult programs this fall. Council approved Linnea's position. Mary/Heidi/passed

Youth and Family: This team is putting together an event for July 14, and already has 13 volunteers signed up to help. See more about The Hackensack Adventure Cafe Recipe Hunt in the newsletter.

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Women's Fellowship: Joni reported that 16 people came to the last meeting and that the group had a really good time. At the June 9th meeting we will feature a small trunk show of quilts that have been made by members of the church. A plant sale will be happening this Sunday to raise money for Women's Fellowship.

Men's Fellowship: Stan reported that the men went to the Hackensack Chamber of Commerce this month to learn more about what they do for the community. Next month the men will visit the Rendezvous Brewery.

Justice Ministry Team: The next meeting of the Justice Ministry Team is June 2 at 6:30 p.m. by zoom. If you would like to join the team, please contact the church. On June 2 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. the Justice Ministry Team will be picking up trash in the Hackensack City Park. Meet at the city park shelter by Birch Lake if you want to join the effort. More details will be printed in the newsletter. Other events the JMT has planned will also be in the June newsletter.

Outreach: The Outreach program featured Faith in Action in May. In June, we will be talking about the volunteer opportunities that are available this summer right at church. There are a number of fun and meaningful activities planned that folks can plug into.

Fundraising: Steve Erickson spoke about some of the fundraising events he envisions for the church. On August 20, the church will hold a Trivia Night and silent auction. Steve needs creatively minded people to join his team.

Tech Team: Mike Schmitt gave us a short presentation of his vision to take Union to the "next step" of technology. Mike would like for each Council member to have an email address that will pass to the next person who has that church job. That way people don't have to use their own personal emails for church work. He also would like us to store documents on Google Docs so important information is not stored in our personal computers. Training for this will begin soon.

Treasure Sale: Treasure Sale set-up has begun. Volunteers are needed to complete set-up and to staff the sale which runs from June 8-11.

Moderator's Moment: Marilyn mentioned to Council that she and Steve need a space in the church to work and to store their papers.

New Business: Karen reminded everyone of the semi-annual meeting coming up in July and the need to write short reports for the annual report.

Meeting was adjourned. Joni/Stan Pastor Torri offered a benediction.

Notes by Karen Holle, Clerk

ADULT LEARNING

New Adult Learning Chair

Linnea Dietrich has accepted the nomination to be the Adult Learning Chair. She will begin joining us this summer at council and will take over responsibilities in the fall.

Linnea's approach to adult learning will be fresh and new to our church. She has a broad and diverse understanding of spirituality and will extend the Adult Learning program into the community. She has some wonderful ideas!

THROUGH KODA'S EYES



Hi! My name is Koda, and I AM THE OFFICIAL CHURCH DOG! I have been waiting to say that for a whole year! My human finally thinks I am ready to take on duties of a real church dog. I feel very excited!

My human told me that being a Church Dog is more than just laying around looking cute. I am expected to do a job! Here are some of my responsibilities:

1. Greet people when they come into the church. I am very good at this one most of the time, but I still jump a little bit when I get excited.
2. Alert my human to anyone who pulls into the church parking lot.
3. Go with my human to visit people either in assisted living centers or at their homes (with permission).
4. Be an ambassador to the community. I do not know what ambassador means, but I do know it involves a lot of treats!

So that is what I do as the Union Congregational Church Dog!

Please know too, in between my duties I take a lot of naps. My favorite spot right now is on my deck at home. Every day after we get home from work, I take a nap on the deck. Being a Church Dog can be exhausting at times!

Have a barky day!

Koda (The OFFICIAL CHURCH DOG)



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Hope you attended our last wine tasting meeting. We sure did have a good time.

This month we are talking quilting. Heidi will be speaking. Please bring quilted items to share. We also have some business to discuss.

Please try to be there.

Always the second Thursday at 1:00.

Joni Kumpula



TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the Date - AUGUST 20 FOR TRIVIA GAME NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION

As part of Union Church's ongoing effort to raise funds and have fun engaging each other, the fundraising committee of Union Church will sponsor a TRIVIA NIGHT and SILENT AUCTION. Teams of up to 8 at a table will compete for prizes, and as an additional bonus there will be a Silent Auction that will occur in between trivia rounds. The sign-up fee is \$10 per person.

Mulligans (free spots) will be an option for tables to buy (1 pack per table). The fun starts at 5:30 pm. You can bring food...no alcohol, but non-alcoholic beverages will be available.

It will be fun and we would like to fill up the social hall with as many tables as possible. Watch this spot in the next newsletter for more information about the TRIVIA GAME NIGHT and SILENT AUCTION on August 20 at 5:30 PM.

See you there!
Steve Erickson



PUBLIC FORUM - Union Beyond COVID

June 26th Forum

“Union Beyond COVID”

What did our church go through during COVID?

How has Union changed because of COVID?

What is the future of Union now?

Pastor Torri will lead a forum to answer all those questions. Join us after church in the Friendship Hall.

NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



Spring has finally arrived in the northland! Lakes are ice-free, trees are leafing out, birds are returning (like this indigo bunting) or migrating through, the bears have awoken, and temps are finally warming up. It was a very long, windy, snowy winter!

Lots of things are happening at Union, too. It's wonderful to see our friends and neighbors returning for the summer. We're encouraging everyone to wear their name tags, both during the service and at coffee hour as well. They're a big help! I see familiar faces, but sometimes the names escape me.

We've begun passing the peace out loud (without sign language) and bumping elbows during the service. Masking remains optional; however, we're being cautious about opening up the pews. Coffee hour continues to be a time when we can be together and catch up with our friends.

Pastor Torri is giving a series on the Sermon on the Mount with the assistance of Steve and Marilyn Erickson this summer. It's nice to give Pastor a break, and have guest speakers once in a while. And we will be having guest musicians throughout the summer as well.

As we say every Sunday, May God's blessing shine upon us, may we go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

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

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Breathe Out

By Karen Holle

Usually the mission of the month is an opportunity for us to learn about projects of the United Church of Christ or groups in our own community that could really use our financial support. This month I would like to do something different. Recently Pastor Torri preached about “Breathing In” through prayer, meditation, or contemplation to fill our hearts with inspiration and love. Then she talked about “Breathing Out” from a place of fullness – breathing out to help the people around us, to be God’s hands and feet in our church and community. Here are some ideas of how you can “breathe out” this summer:

The Hackensack Cafe Adventure Scavenger Hunt – This is a half day event on July 14 for children and their families. If you like working with children, have grandchildren you would like to bring, or simply want to help make this community event great, come and help out. It will be great fun!!

The Treasure Sale – We are currently setting up for our annual Treasure Sale which is a fundraising event for the church. Sign up to help set up or to help during the sale itself which runs from June 8 – 11.

Memorial Service Meals – We have already had two memorial events at church with a meal provided for the family and guests after the service. This requires planning the menu, buying the food, preparing the food, serving the food, and cleanup. Yes, it is a fair amount of work but it means so much to the family that it is very rewarding. We have two more memorial services coming up that we already know of and probably others will be forthcoming that we don’t know of yet.

Fundraising – August 20 we will be having a church fundraiser which will be a combined Trivia Night and Silent Auction. If you would like to help with this fundraiser please talk to Steve Erickson about how you could be of assistance.

Coffee Hour Treats – Every week we have treats after our service. Sign up to bring a treat to share.

Fix it Projects - We have a large building, and sometimes things break. If you are handy and would like to be part of that team, please let Mike Bohanon know.

Thanks for considering these ideas. Karen Holle

BAPTISM OF

CRUZE JAMES ATWATER

We had the privilege of baptizing Cruze James Atwater on May 22nd during our Sunday worship service. Cruze is the son of Derek and Tahnee Atwater, and is the great-grandson of Mary Parrish.



BOARD OF FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Giving Income-April	\$4,091.00	Year to Date Giving	\$29,181.95
Other Income	\$ 257.75	YTD Other Income	\$3,897.52
Total Income	\$4,348.75	YTD Total Income	\$33,079.02
Expenses-April	\$11,693.67	Year to Date Expenses	\$49,882.14
Current Month Balance	\$ -7,344.92	YTD Balance	\$-16,803.12
		Carryover	\$14,709.51
		Prepaid	\$1,150.00
Monthly Net Income	\$-7,344.92	YTD Net Income	\$-942.61

Other income includes Treasure Sale, Community Meal, fundraisers, 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: \$2,258.84
 Total Assets \$266,732.43

2022 Pledges

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

Summary

Our expenses for January through April were higher than normal, especially for propane and electricity. At the same time, our income has been lower than normal. This is because some larger donations that traditionally have come earlier in the year and the Fetzer funds have not yet been received. The Fetzer funds are coming and most likely won't be received until June. Also, over \$1300 which should have been received in April, did not arrive until after the end of month deposit and did not show in the April income. We hope to see an increase in our giving as more people return to the area.

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

A new on-demand propane water heater has been installed to service the upper level of the church. The old one was unrepairable and has been removed. This expense will be covered by our Reserve Maintenance-Replacement-Improvement (MRI) funds

DIRECTORY PHOTOS

We are putting together a new directory for the church, and we need your photos!

All current members of Union UCC, please send in a headshot to the church's email. If you do not have the means to send us a picture yourself, you may come to church and we will take your photo for you.

Email: unionucc401@gmail.com



ONGOING EVENTS



Women's Fellowship

Thursday, June 9th at 1:00 pm in the Friendship Hall.

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



Men's Fellowship

Tuesday, June 7th at 9:00 am in the Friendship Hall.

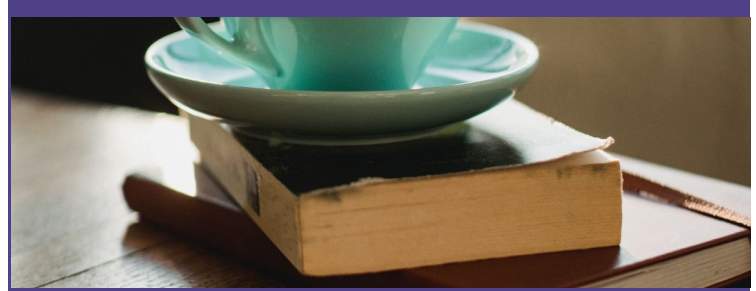
If you have any questions, please call the office at 218-675-6300 or email the church at unionucc401@gmail.com.



Wednesday Bible Study

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

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



Book Study

Studying Gay Like Me each Wednesday at 7pm.

Stay tuned for the next book study.



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.

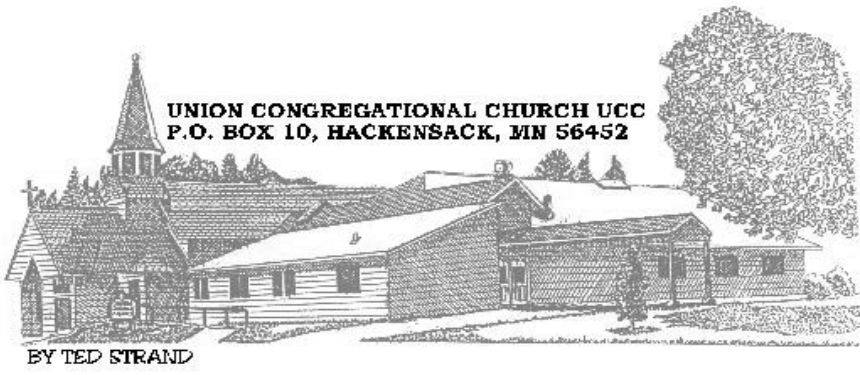
Bring a snack to share.

Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN

JUNE 2022

* = Community Event held at the church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*	9:00am Men's Group	10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall* 12:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Study: Gay Like Me	6:30pm Justice Ministry Team Meeting (Zoom)	1:30– Bone Builders *	8:00am Treasure Sale
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:00am JMT Meeting 5:30pm Game Night	1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*	5:30pm Financial Board Meeting	10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall* 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Dick's Acoustic Jam* 7:00pm Book Study: Gay Like Me	8:00am Treasure Sale 1:00pm Women's Fellowship	8:00am Treasure Sale 1:30– Bone Builders *	8:00am Treasure Sale
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*		10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall* 12:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Study: Gay Like Me	1:00pm Council Meeting	1:30 Bone Builders *	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*		10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall* 12:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Study: Gay Like Me	1:00pm Fiber Arts*	1:30 Bone Builders *	
26	27	28	29	30		
9:30am Worship 10:30am Forum—Union Beyond COVID 5:30pm Game Night	1:30 Bone Builders* 6:00pm AA Meeting*		10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall* 12:00pm Bible Study			



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FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED



2022

Treasure Sale runs June 8th-11th
New Directory in the works—
We need your photos!

THE UNION NEWS