



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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JULY 2022

Notes from Rev. Torri Vande Zande

Union: The Tenacious Body of Christ

Sunday, June 26th, we had a forum called "Union Beyond COVID." During that time, I gave an overview of what was happening behind the scenes of Union while we isolated, figured out how to navigate a pandemic, and slowly began reassessing ourselves

to adapt to whatever the future holds for us. Thank you to all who attended.



If you would like to see the forum, we recorded it and it is available in the office on a flash drive. If you do not have the means to use a flash

drive, please call the office and we can schedule a time to play it for you at the church.

As we take steps into the future of what Union will look like, I am encouraged and excited about what God has planned for us. I have learned that Union is

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Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

Communion: First Sunday each month

THE HACKENSACK CAFÉ ADVENTURES SCAVENGER HUNT

On Thursday, July 14 from 8:30 AM to noon, Union Church in Hackensack will host a book reading followed by a scavenger hunt. This free event is open to kids entering kindergarten through 5th grade.

Author Norrie Thomas will read her book, The Hackensack Cafe Adventures, after which the kids will search for clues to solve the mystery of the missing recipes.

Each child will receive a goody bag, and lunch will be provided for the kids and their families (free will offering).

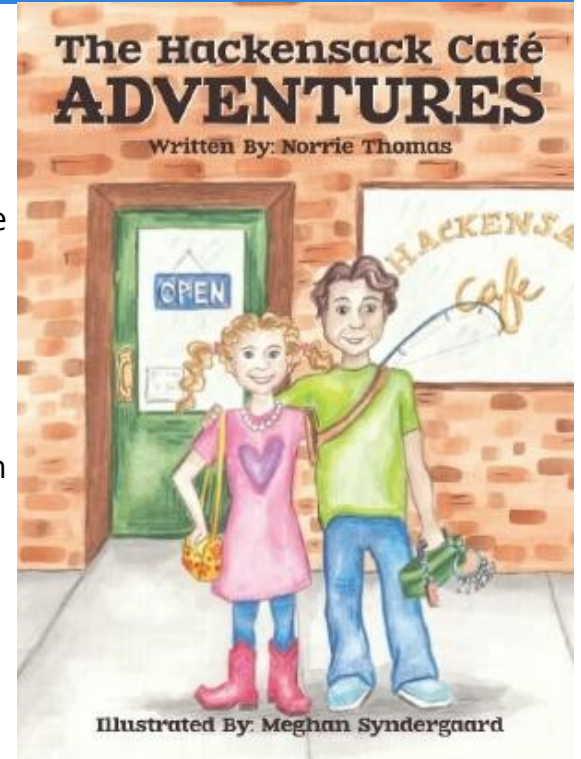
Pre-registration is required by July 11, and the registration form can be found at the church (401 E Lake Ave) or on the church's website: unionchackensack.com. Return completed registration forms to the church. Office hours are 8:30 AM - noon, Monday - Thursday; however a drop box is available.

This event is being provided in collaboration with the Hackensack Lending Library and is part of Hackensack's Sweetheart Days celebration. For more information, contact 218-831-3927.

On Deck:

July 14

Hackensack Cafe Adventures Scavenger Hunt from 8:30-noon for kids entering K-5 at Union Church. Lunch provided. Event is free, but space is limited - pre-registration recommended. Registration form at church or on website - unionchackensack.com. Call 218-675-6300 for info.



TREASURE SALE REPORT

We had another wonderful year for the Treasure sale.

Total for this year including online sales and sale of the stove is \$8,759.84.

A big thank you goes out to all who helped with the sale - setting it up, running it, and all of the contributions. This would not be possible without all of you.

We still have two big items for sale: a jazzy electric wheelchair and a sailboat.

For more information you may contact me. Thank you again.

Blessings, Cindy



Photo by Pastor Torri Vande Zande





COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2022

PRESENT: Marilyn McKnight, Karen Holle, Pastor Torri, Don Hoppe, Heidi Hoppe, Joni Kumpula, Mary Parrish, Ron Merritt, Sue Kimmel, Kerry Swenson

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

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

Pastor's Monthly Report: Torri talked a bit today about the forum she is preparing for Sunday, June 26 after worship entitled Union Beyond Covid. On June 25, we will be celebrating the life of Fritz Zieffler, and on July 16, we will celebrate the life of Lois Anderson. Other details of Pastor Torri's work are included in her monthly report.

Financial Stewardship Board: Don reported that total income for the month of May was \$13,918, and expenses were \$7,828 leaving us with a positive balance of \$6,090. Using our carryover from last year we have a YTD Net Income of \$5,227. The May accounts look much better than the previous months. Expenses were down this month, and the Fetzer funds have been received. The income for June is also looking good. The Financial Report has been accepted for filing.

Facilities Board: We talked a bit today about the fact that Ron Merritt, one of our Facilities chairs, will be moving in a few months to St. Louis. Mike Bohanon is also part of that board, but all agree that more help is needed. Kerry Swenson has offered to help the church with Facility needs. Kerry is very handy, and we are thrilled to have him on the Facilities team. Ron will meet with Kerry to explain contracts we have and the way the church operates as a building. **Motion to accept Kerry Swenson as co-chair of the Facilities Board with Mike Bohanon. Don/Heidi/passed.**

Ron mentioned that the new hot water heater which is an "on demand" system takes quite a while to send hot water upstairs to the main kitchen. There was also discussion today about the elevator and when we should decide whether we will remove it or update it. For now we will leave the elevator because the new regulations have not gone into effect yet.

We also discussed the need to "pick" Sue Johnson's brain about our building's quirks before she leaves the area. Also mentioned was the need to possibly ask people who attend exercise class on Wednesdays at the church to contribute some money to cover utilities for the building.

Personnel Board: Marilyn is working with Sue on writing a job description for her position. She is also conducting background checks for the volunteers who will be working with children in July.

Ministry Teams: Congregational Life: Joni spoke about the people who are returning this summer to our church and the number of memorial services we have already completed and the number that are coming up. Torri mentioned that six more individuals would like to join our church!! This is very exciting! Torri is also working with one individual who is in confirmation class this summer.

Worship: Heidi reported that worship is going well, and that the last Sunday in June we will be listening to gospel music from Dick Kimmel and some of his associates.

Youth and Family: Pastor Torri reported that there are five people on the Youth and Family team who are involved in planning the July 14 youth event. She expressed gratitude for the dedication of this

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group of people.

Women's Fellowship: Joni reported that we had a nice meeting in June. Several people brought in quilts that they had made or that someone in their family had made. Heidi talked about the unique characteristics of each of her quilts which was very interesting. In July the Women's Fellowship will help prepare the food for the July 14 youth event.

Men's Fellowship: Nine men went to the Rendezvous Brewery in June to learn about the operation of the business. They had a very enjoyable time. Several of our church men worked with Faith in Action men to help Ed Curo clean up his yard after a bad storm. Thanks to Kerry Swenson for organizing that effort!

Justice Ministry Team: Sue Kimmel organized a Hackensack "clean-up" day that resulted in lots of trash being removed from the streets of our town. This will possibly become an annual event for the JMT.

Outreach: Karen has been writing an article monthly about local missions and UCC missions so people reading the newsletter can see if they would like to support any of these groups. Don has noticed that people seem more interested in supporting local missions. We will rethink the outreach program over the next few months.

Fundraising: Trivia Night is being planned.

Treasure Sale: This year's sale netted over \$8,760! Thanks to Cindy and her team for all the hard work on this fundraising event for the church.

Moderator's Moment: Marilyn indicated that being the moderator for the church is a privilege for her. Thank you, Marilyn, for your leadership.

Old Business: July semi-annual meeting. Karen will ask Linda or Sabbastian to send out last year's annual report so board chairs can see what they need to write. Articles are due to the church by July 11.

New Business: Church Keys: Some of our new church leaders have been unable to obtain a key to the church because keys are in the possession of someone else who might no longer need the key. If you have a key you are not using, please return it to the office secretary, Linda.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is July 21. Notes by Karen Holle, Clerk

Dear Friends,
Just a line that I am living,
that I am not among the dead,
though I'm getting more forgetful
and more mixed up in the head.

For sometimes I can't remember
when I stand at the foot of the stairs
if I must go up for something
or I have just come down from
there.

and before the fridge so often
my poor mind is filled with doubt.
Have I just put the food away
or have I come to take some out?

So if it's my turn to write to you
there's no need of getting sore.
I may think that I have forgotten
and don't want to be a bore.

So remember I do miss you
and I wish that you were near,
but now it's nearly mail time
so I must say goodbye, my dear.

Sincerely, Ruth Peters

P.S.
There I stood before the mailbox
with a face so very sad.
Instead of mailing you my letter,
I had opened it instead!

THROUGH KODA'S EYES



Hi! My name is Koda, and I am the Church Dog! I don't know about you, but my summer has been very busy! There is so much to do in the summer: Sniffing new smells, laying in the grass, running around the shed, going for walks with my human, sitting in the window and growling at various people and woodland creatures... and of course, being Union's Church Dog! That is a big job and takes up a lot of time!

My human tells me that I have been doing a great job so far. I have done my best to greet people who come into the church (even though I jump on certain people more than I should... but it's usually because I smell treats in their pocket!). I have been very quiet on Sunday mornings when I am in my human's office. While all the humans are in the big room howling to God, I am resting in my chair and waiting until after the service so I can vacuum the Friendship Hall with my mouth! That is my favorite part of being the Church Dog! I was told that the Church is called the "Body of Christ." If that is so, then I am the stomach!

I think it is nice to be called the "Body of Christ." From what I know of Christ, He embodied kindness, loyalty, justice and peace. Gosh! That sounds like a dog!

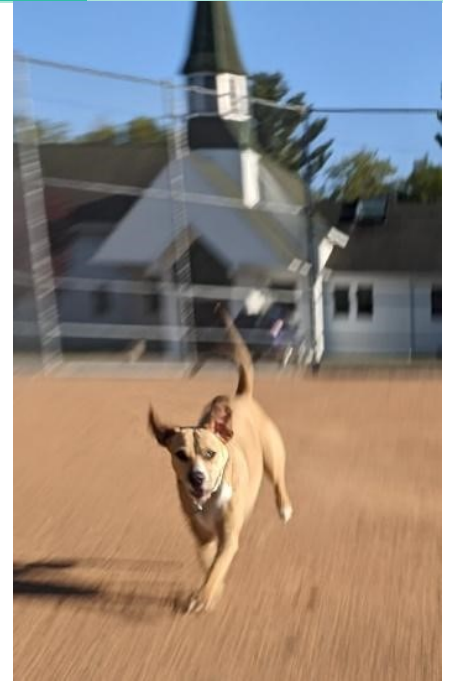
Anyway, I still have a lot to learn, but I wanted to thank you all for being very patient with me. I am only 2-½, so I have a lot of time to learn things.

That's how I see it through my eyes!

Have a barky day!

Koda (The Church Dog)

Koda (The Church Dog)



TRIVIA NIGHT

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

Why should the pubs, breweries, and other establishments have all the fun? Reserve the evening of Saturday, AUGUST 20TH for UCC Trivia and Silent Auction Night in the Friendship Hall.

During the rounds of Trivia, participants will be eligible to silently inspect and bid on various items of value people have donated. In fact, if you have something of value that you would like to find a special home for, please contact me at 612-741-3394.

If you have a service to auction off, that could also be part of the Silent Auction.

Teams of up to eight per table will compete for prizes. Plan for an evening of fun! Bring your favorite snacks. Beverages will be sold. See you there!

Steve E.



PUBLIC FORUM - "What's Next?"

August 14th

10:45am (After Church)

In the Friendship Hall

Union has been an Open and Affirming Church to the LGBTQ+ community since 2017.

- What are our next steps forward?
- What does open and affirming mean to a small rural church?
- How can we be advocates to our friends in the LGBTQ+ community?

Come join our conversation.

Led by Vicki Wunch

NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Summer is here, and we're happily greeting our returning seasonal members and friends. Welcome back! It's always wonderful to see those familiar faces in the pews.

Hackensack is buzzing this month. The festivities for Independence Day and Sweetheart Days will provide many opportunities for fun for everyone. I hope you can take advantage of a few of them. As I'm sure you've heard, Union will be involved in Sweetheart Days this year, providing an event for children on July 14, The Hackensack Cafe Adventures Scavenger Hunt. It's going to be fun!

We'll be having our Semi-Annual Meeting in July as well. This is the time when Union reaffirms its lay leadership. You know the old saying, "Many hands make light work." Well, it's true, and there are many opportunities to share your time and talents. Please prayerfully consider where you might find a good fit and contact anyone on the Council - we'll steer you in the right direction!

Have a great summer. And remember to wear your nametag for worship and fellowship time. It's helpful for everyone!

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

JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM

The Justice Ministry Team will be meeting on Thursday, July 7 at 6:30PM via Zoom.

We will be breaking into 4 small groups to discuss mission priorities.

Our mission priorities are:

- Supporting the wellbeing of our community
- Striving to be allies with our Anishinaabe neighbors
- Being welcoming and affirming to our LGBTQ+ neighbors
- Taking regenerative care of our environment.

If you share these mission priorities, please join us. All are welcome.

The Justice Ministry Team will be meeting with Joe Day, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Elder, on July 17 at 11:00AM in the Union church library. Joe will share his personal story and will discuss the history of the Hackensack area.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED?

Poetry Safari at the Northwoods Art & Book Festival is a joint project of Kokoro and the Northwoods Arts Council.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Five Wings Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Greetings! Wow, where is time going? We are not having a regular meeting in July because of the Youth and Families book scavenger hunt on our regular meeting day. Instead we will be helping in the kitchen with the lunch. It should be great fun. In August we will be having a fun and lovely luncheon at 12:00 noon in the Friendship Hall. If you are to bring food, you will be contacted and asked. Luncheons are always fun. In September we will be doing another wine event.



We are now all ambassadors to the Hack Chamber of Commerce. That means when a new business comes to town we all greet and welcome them and inform them that there is a Chamber. That really is a neat responsibility! We are all watching Hack grow.

I hope you all have the second Thursday of the month circled for Fellowship. Come and join the fun and inspiration of enjoying our time together. It really is a joy!

See you in church, Joni

BOARD OF FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Giving Income-May	\$12,986.00	Year to Date Giving	\$42,967.95
Other Income	\$ 932.00	YTD Other Income	\$4,950.50
Total Income	\$13,918.00	YTD Total Income	\$47,918.45
Expenses-May	\$7,828.33	Year to Date Expenses	\$58,550.60
Current Month Balance	\$6,089.67	YTD Balance	\$-10,632.15
		Carryover	\$14,709.51
		Prepaid	<u>\$1.150.00</u>
Monthly Net Income	\$6,089.67	YTD Net Income	\$ 5,227.36

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: \$27,375.57
 Total Assets \$275,045.09

2022 Pledges

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

Summary

May accounts look much better than the previous months. Expenses were down this month and donations were up and the Fetzer funds have been received. June income is also looking good at this time.

The new printer has been installed and the monthly printer expense will decrease by a little over \$50 beginning in July.

The Treasure Sale was very successful. Over \$7,000 was raised during the 4-day sale in June!

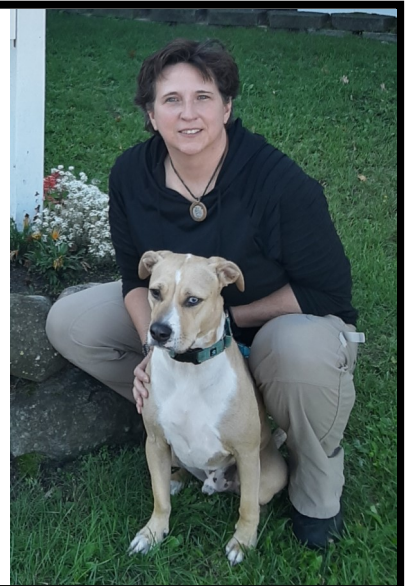
DIRECTORY PHOTOS

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

All current members and friends 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

Deadline: August 1st



ONGOING EVENTS



Women's Fellowship

Canceled for July due to Hackensack Café Adventures event!

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, July 5th 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

Bible Study has been put on hold for the summer so we can go outside and enjoy God's creation!

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



Book Study

Watch for information about the next book study, coming in the fall.



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

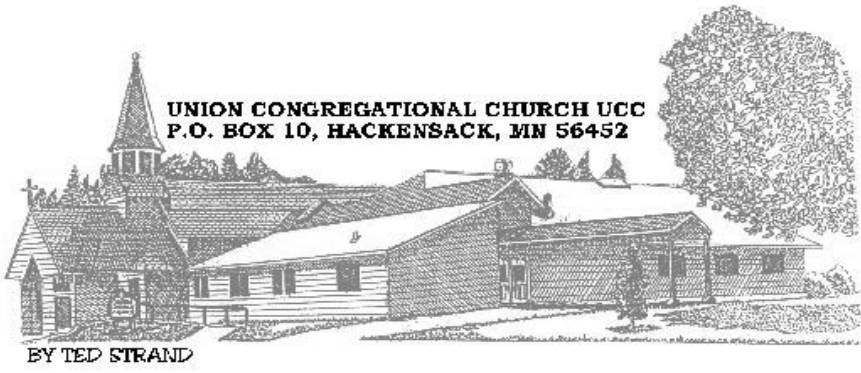
Every other Sunday at 5:30pm.
Bring a snack to share.

Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN

JULY 2022

* = Community Event held at the church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>9:30am Worship</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>1:30 Bone Builders*</p> <p>6:00pm AA Meeting*</p>	<p>9:00am Men's Group</p>	<p>10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall*</p> <p>12:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:00pm Book Study: Gay Like Me</p>	<p>3:00pm Prep for Izaak Walton Dinner*</p> <p>6:30pm Justice Ministry Team Meeting (Zoom)</p>	<p>1:30- Bone Builders *</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>9:30am Worship</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>5:30pm Game Night</p>	<p>1:30 Bone Builders*</p> <p>6:00pm AA Meeting*</p>	<p>5:30pm Financial Board Meeting</p>	<p>10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall*</p> <p>12:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>9:00am-noon Hackensack Café Adventures*</p>	<p>1:30 Bone Builders *</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11:00 a.m.—Memorial Service for Lois Anderson</p>
<p>9:30am Worship</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:00am Joe Day, Ojibwe elder till meet with Justice Ministry Team. All are welcome!</p>	<p>1:30 Bone Builders*</p> <p>6:00pm AA Meeting*</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>10:00am Exercise in Friendship Hall*</p> <p>12:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>6:00pm Dick's Acoustic Jam*</p> <p>7:00pm Book Study: Gay Like Me</p>	<p>1:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>1:30 Bone Builders *</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>9:30am Worship</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>5:30pm Game Night</p> <p>9:30am Worship</p> <p>10:30am Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:45am Semi-Annual Meeting</p>	<p>1:30 Bone Builders*</p> <p>6:00pm AA Meeting*</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>12:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>1:00pm Fiber Arts*</p>	<p>1:30 Bone Builders *</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00am Baby Lake Association Meeting*</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
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FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED



**JULY
2022**

**Upcoming: The Hackensack Café
Adventures Scavenger Hunt
July 14th**
Open to kids entering kindergarten
through 5th grade

THE UNION NEWS