

# 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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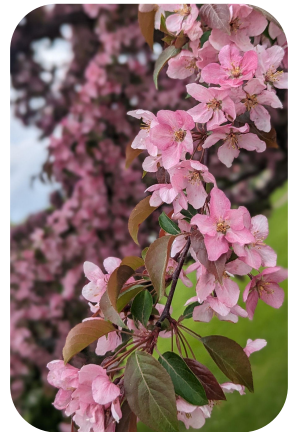
# JUNE 2024

## Moderator's Moment by Marilyn McKnight

We live in a time of much complexity – spring and summer bring new beginnings in the planting of gardens, repairing what could not be done in winter, joy in the beauty of the earth, and sunlight that lengthens our days. Somehow spring lightens the burdens of winter and promises newness and joy. And perhaps it also gives us respite from the news of the world – a welcome “time off” from the pain and suffering we experience constantly if we tune into the news of the secular world.

Since we have no ability to change the perils of the world except in our prayers, we can instead concentrate on our little corner of the world right here in God's country!

Let's turn our attention to helping our neighbors in need and welcoming them to participate more fully in getting to know each other. And when there is conflict, let us accept it with open arms and minds as an opportunity to learn and appreciate our differences and together find common ground and solutions.



Continues on Page 3

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

Communion: First Sunday of Every 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 Dick Kimmel Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderators	Marilyn McKnight & Steve Erickson
Vice Moderator	Gunder Austin
Clerk	Karen Holle
Board of Financial Stewardship	Don Hoppe
<b>Ministry Teams:</b>	
Congregational Life	Caryl Allan
Facilities	Mike Bohanon & Kerry Swenson
Personnel	Connie Schmitt
Worship	Heidi Hoppe
Men's Fellowship	Stan Kumpula
Women's Fellowship	Joni Kumpula
Adult Learning	Linnea Dietrich
Tech Team	Mike Schmitt
Online Sales	Cindy Gulbrandson
Justice Ministry Team	Sue Kimmel

### TORRI'S UPCOMING SABBATICAL

This year Torri is taking a sabbatical – a time for her to rest from her never-ending pastoral responsibilities, a time to strengthen her relationship with God and to recommit to her call, as well as provide her with a renewed vision and focus for her ministry to our church.

She will be away from August 12<sup>th</sup> until November 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a very private time for Torri during which she will not be available and not responding to phone or text messages.

Torri has been planning her sabbatical for the past year, seeking guidance and feedback from the Church Council as she has firmed up her plans. The Sabbatical Planning Committee of the Church Council has been working with Torri to hire a part-time pastor to step in and carry on some of her duties in her absence. There will be more information on her sabbatical in the next newsletter.

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 10	Candace Strawn
June 16	Luise Forseth Joni Kumpula
June 18	Kirin Christianson
June 19	Pat Pomeroy
June 20	Sue Johnson
June 27	Cindy Gulbrandson
June 28	Don Olsen

*Happy Birthday!*

Continued from Page 1

Personally, I have experienced the kindness and graciousness of so many of you in your wonderful cards and kind assistance during my cancer journey. Thank you for your meals, cards, and driving me to radiation for six weeks! Such love and kindness are so appreciated, especially the opportunity to get to know so many new friends! We are all truly blessed to live in such a wonderful, caring community!

God's blessings to all.

Marilyn McKnight



## NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Greetings to all our returning summer members and friends. It is always great to see you returning to the beautiful North Woods. The trees have leafed out, the birds have returned from their winter sojourn, the days are warm, and the lakes are inviting. Almost paradise!

Birchview Church is going very well, with 10 or 12 regular members. What a beautiful outreach for our congregation! They are wonderful folks, and if you'd like to visit with them on a Sunday, please contact Caryl Allan. She'd be thrilled to have you, as would the congregation next door.



As you may know, Pastor Torri will be going on a much needed and well earned sabbatical this fall. A sabbatical is a time away from their duties for a pastor, a time of learning, reflection, and rejuvenation. It will be very important for us, as a congregation, to remember that while she may not be away from Hackensack, she will not be connected to the church during this time. So if you see her on the street or at Trivia night at Rendezvous Brewing, please greet her as a friend and member of the community but not burden her with what's going on at Union.

Torri will be focusing on 4 topics while on sabbatical: What is family?, What is home?, Contemplative Prayer, and connecting with God through nature. This will be a wonderful time for us, as a congregation, to think about these topics as well. Does family include more than blood relations? Is home more than a certain physical place? What exactly does "contemplative prayer" mean and how can we participate in the practice? And of course, we can get outside. Yes, there are bothersome ticks and mosquitoes, but there are also wood anemones, red headed woodpeckers, and rainbows. We can also take this time to learn, reflect, and rejuvenate.

While Torri is away we will be welcoming various members and friends on a Sunday morning, sharing their thoughts with us. Some we have welcomed before - Steve Erickson, Laura Baum-Parr, and Sheila Hunter. I look forward to hearing their varying styles and ideas until Torri's return. Let's welcome them to our pulpit.



# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 16, 2024 DRAFT *(Not approved by Council yet)*

PRESENT: Don and Heidi Hoppe, Cindy Gulbrandson, Stan and Joni Kumpula, Gunder Austin, Mike Schmitt, Steve and Marilyn Erickson, Pastor Torri, Karen Holle, Caryl Allan, Mike Bohanon.

Marilyn called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved with one addition. The minutes were approved as written. Joni/Gunder/passed.

Pastor's Monthly Report to Council: Pastor Torri highlighted Birchview Church. She is encouraging us to skip the early service from time to time and catch the 1:00 service at Birchview. The residents would enjoy seeing new faces at their Sunday service.

Torri also mentioned that at the last Congregational Life meeting, Caryl agreed to become the chair for the team. **Motion: Council approves Caryl Allan as the chair for the Congregational Life ministry team. Joni/Heidi/passed.**

Pastor Torri has several responsibilities for the Minnesota Conference which takes place June 7 and 8. She has begun to get busy with projects as the time of the conference is only a few weeks away. Mike Schmitt will be presenting at the Minnesota Conference on the use of technology in worship services.

Board of Facilities: Mike Bohanon is currently getting bids for wall repair work in the Friendship Hall. He is also getting bids for painting the outside of the church. Mike is still working on finding someone to mow the church lawn. Don Hoppe volunteered to spray the weeds in the gravel around the church.

Council decided that a capital campaign should begin for the eventual replacement of the church roof. This project will fall under the Board of Financial Stewardship.

Board of Personnel: This team is working through Pastor Torri's sabbatical. This includes a job description and contract for the interim pastor (Sheila Hunter).

Board of Financial Stewardship: Total income for the month of May was \$14,871, and expenses were \$17,405. Having a negative balance is common for this time of year. Our final balance for the year is \$21,152.

## Ministry Team Reports:

Congregational Life: Caryl feels that one of the main focuses of Congregational Life is to keep in touch with people who have a strong connection to the church, but are not able to get to church very often for various reasons. Calls and cards are used in the effort to reach out to these folks. The church directory will be updated in the fall.

Worship: Heidi reported that we are seeing an average of 32 people in the pews on Sundays in the past four weeks. Eleven people are joining the service online, and 11 people are attending Birchview Church on Sundays.

Heidi mentioned that we need a better way to store church banners which are changed in the Sanctuary on a schedule. Caryl volunteered her husband, Jim, for this project.

Adult Learning: Camino Hackensack: Thirteen pilgrims have paid to be part of Camino Hackensack. Linnea is thrilled with this and is very excited about the event.

Lectio Divina continues to be strong with an average of 7 people attending. At the end of the session the group often sits in silence basking in the glow of the Spirit.

**Women's Bible Study:** Twelve women are involved in the 2-year Bible study.

**Women's Fellowship:** Joni reported that 13 women met at Stone Woman Herbals for the May meeting. Men and women are invited to the meeting in June which is going to feature wine making with Don Hoppe.

New blinds have just been installed in the friendship hall. These were paid for by Women's Fellowship and were installed by Gunder Austin.

**Men's Fellowship:** Stan reported that he is working with Steve Erickson on a list of trips the men might take in the next few months.

**Justice Ministry Team:** Neighbor Helping Neighbor Community Clean-up is happening this weekend, May 17 and May 18. There are 11 projects to be completed with numerous volunteers signed up to assist.

On June 23, Arnold Dahl-Wooley will be speaking at a forum after church. Arnold is a Two Spirit, LGBTQ public speaker. The Walker Community Church will be invited to our forum and to the brunch which will be served.

A new book study will begin June 10 and will continue to July 15. Steve and Marilyn Erickson will lead the study of the book, Possible; How We Survive and Thrive in an Age of Conflict by William Ury. Meetings will be held Monday nights at 7:30 PM by zoom.

**Fundraising:** Steve reported that proceeds from our monthly family meals this summer will be going to the Men's Fellowship to purchase food for the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter food baskets.

**Tech Team:** Mike Schmitt talked about improvements that have been made in the Sanctuary to the sound system for people listening online. The grand piano has been moved, and a camera may be installed that will allow for better viewing of the pianist.

**Outreach:** Fifty seven people attended the family meal last evening. The meal program will conclude after Memorial Day for the summer. A monthly meal will be offered in June, July, and August and weekly meals will continue after Labor Day.

**Moderator Moment:** Marilyn expressed her gratitude for the many rides she received from members of the congregation during her radiation treatment in Brainerd.

**Old Business:** Sabbatical Planning. Next meeting is June 11 at 10:30.

**New Business:** Strategic Planning Day. Pastor Torri would like to meet this winter after her sabbatical with the church leadership team to create a 5 year strategic plan for the church.

Request from Mayor Bill regarding fishing contests this summer: We have been asked to contribute \$200 and a team of 2 – 3 people to help with one of the Fishing Tuesdays at the Hackensack Park Dock. This request was agreed to at the meeting.

Pastor Parrish Team: This will be discussed at the next Moderator/Vice Moderator meeting in June.

Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting is June 20. Notes by Karen Holle.

## THROUGH KODA'S EYES

### Summer Meals!!!

Hi! My name is Koda and I am the Church Dog!

Wednesdays are always one of my favorite days! Why? Because it is "Community Meal," and the whole church smells yummy! This past winter they fed a lot of people!

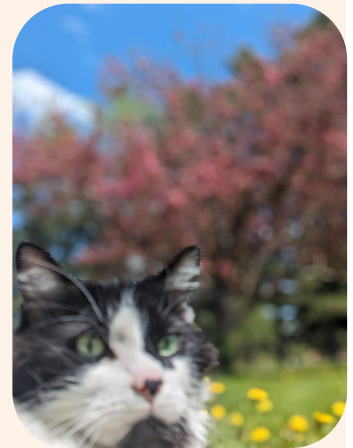
This summer they will not be having weekly meals, but they will have monthly meals! It will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 5:00 - 6:00 pm in the Friendship Hall.

Here is the wonderful thing!!! These meals will be fundraisers to help purchase the meat that goes into the Holiday Baskets for the Hackensack Food Shelf! These baskets help feed families in our area who may not have the resources to purchase their holiday meals.

Every meal will be a "free-will donation"! You can pay whatever you want! I wonder if I can donate Bandit (the cat) for a meal? Probably not.

So come to the church June 19<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup>, and August 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 - 6:00 pm (note the time change) to eat some yummy food and give money to a good cause!

That's how I see it through my eyes! Have a barky day!  
Koda (The Church Dog)



## Celebrating the Past: Women's Fellowship

Myra Damm, Historian

Some of the earliest organizations within the church were Sunday School, Ladies Aid Society, and the Young People's Society.

Although Sunday School and Young People's Society no longer exist, The Ladies Aid Society still exists and has grown and changed in many ways but has continued to do the work of the church. Today it is called Women's Fellowship.

They organized fundraisers, "pie and ice cream socials," sponsored recitals or plays, served dinners, and also sponsored a Bazaar in the Summer, with the money earned to help pay for things that were needed.

Some of the best records in the history files and the many journals from the beginning are filled with the work of the Ladies Aid Society.

## BOARD OF FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### Operating Income and Expenses

Giving Income - April	\$ 13,679.00	Year to Date 2024 Giving	\$ 47,719.00
Other Income* - April	\$ 1,192.01	YTD Other Income*	\$ 6,968.13
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 14,871.01</b>	<b>YTD Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 54,687.13</b>
<b>Expenses - April</b>	<b>\$17,405.63</b>	<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 66,746.15</b>
<b>Balance - April</b>	<b>\$2,534.62</b>	<b>Balance - Year to Date</b>	<b>\$ 12,059.02</b>
		FY 2024 Prepaid Pledges	\$ 8,100.00
		Previous FY Carryover	\$ 25,111.57
		<b>Final Balance</b>	<b>\$21,152.55</b>

\* Other income includes Treasure Sale, Community Meal, fundraisers, building use, donations, 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:	\$ 162,862.24
Reserve Savings	\$ 32,171.57
CD's	\$ 125,000.00
Investments	\$ 156,261.54
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 476,295.35</b>

### Summary

Our expenses, especially for Facilities, have been higher than normal. Some of these expenses have come out of budgeted funds and could have been paid from Maintenance, Replacement and Improvement (MRI) reserve funds.

Our revenue is a little low but is normal for this time of year and we expect income to increase as we enter the summer months.

## ADULT LEARNING by Judy Hoopman

I want to start with a brief math lesson. I calculated the other day that there are 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours in a day, and 7 days in a week which then totals 10,080 minutes in a week. I think I spend about 60-90 minutes in Lectio Divina almost every Wednesday. This is a commitment I have made to myself! This also means that I spent just a bit over 1% of my time each week in this devotional practice. What a bang for my buck!!

Seriously though, here is how I feel about my experience with Lectio:

Lectio allows me to have quiet time I need to “still” my busy, active mind, and open my heart; especially in today’s world of being busy and on the go. There is a strong sense of sharing and trust in our group, and a relatedness in each of our own spiritual journeys.

Lectio provides a venue of learning about God’s messages to us and learning from one another as we share our feelings about a particular word or phrase from scripture.

To sum this up, Lectio allows me “to be present in God’s presence.”

Please join us on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm in the Library. All are welcome!

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We will join Women's Fellowship on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm for their program on Wine Making. Don Hoppe and I will show how we make wine in our homes for our own enjoyment. Don has many years of making all kinds of wine, and they got Joni and me interested in doing it several years ago.

Steve Erickson and I talked about interesting sightseeing trips in Minnesota. Steve has been to many places in the state and came up with 4 of these day trips that could be of interest to all of us. Here is a summary of these, and we would like to hear from you as to your interest in going on one or any of them. You can google these to find more details:

1. **Hjemkomst Center:** Exact replica of a 9<sup>th</sup> century Viking Ship. The museum has other items of interest. Located in Moorhead and open 9-5, M-Sat. Cost is \$11 for seniors.
2. **Legacy of the Lakes Museum:** Located in Alexandria, they have a Boat Show on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. It has many antique boats and motors in the museum, and on this day, offers a ride in the original 1907 Fay and Bowen Launch that is quite rare and donated by the late Jack Thomas who founded Mann Lake Bee Supply. Cost is \$8 for seniors.
3. **Western MN Steam Threshers Reunion in Rollag:** Aug 30<sup>th</sup> through Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> (Labor Day Weekend). All sorts of ancient farm equipment, steam engines, etc. The one day cost is \$15.
4. **Lost Forty:** A forest area near Blackduck that survey crews missed when surveying back in 1882. There are 300 to 400-year-old virgin pines. A one mile self-guided walk is available, unless you just go to part of the forest.

Let me know if you have any interest in the trips or need more information about the process, but do come to WF on June 13<sup>th</sup>!

Stan Kumpula

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Happy summer, and hope everyone is back and ready for our beautiful lake country activities! Fellowship is busy and active. In May we had a wonderful "Celebrate Sheryl Day." We thanked Sheryl for her many years of services in music and as Treasurer for Union. She has been active in music and/or director for over 25 years (didn't think she's that old!), and Treasurer for many. We are so extremely fortunate to have her as one of our own! We love and appreciate you, Sheryl!!!! We also had a great Plant Sale. Thank you for all the beautiful plants you brought in and also bought.



On June 13, we will be making wine. This is a fun process to be led by Don and Stan, our famous wine makers. Please put it on your calendar. MEN, you are all invited to join us. Our plan for the rest of the summer includes wood carving and a bus trip to the Munsinger Gardens in St Cloud. Do come and enjoy the fellowship! Remember all women are considered fellowship members.

See you in church and on the second Thursday, Joni



## MONTHLY FUNDRAISER MEALS!

This summer we will be having monthly Fundraiser Meals! It will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 5:00 - 6:00 pm in the Friendship Hall.

These meals will be fundraisers to help purchase the meat that goes into the Holiday Baskets for the Hackensack Food Shelf! These baskets help feed families in our area who may not have the resources to purchase their holiday meals. Our Men's Fellowship group has partnered with the Lions, Faith in Action, and the Hackensack Food Shelf for years, and we hope they partner together for many more.

The meals will be a "free-will donation." So come to the church June 19<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 - 6:00 pm (note the time change) to eat some yummy food and give money to a good cause!

If you would like to help prepare or serve please contact the office. Thank you to the Men's Fellowship group for volunteering to do the clean up.



## JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM

A big thank you to all Union volunteers who assisted with the Community Cleanup on May 17 and 18. We completed 14 projects with 29 volunteers on Friday and 22 volunteers on Saturday. The majority of people who worked both days were from Union Congregational.

At Union we believe that helping our neighbor is a calling and a blessing. May you all be blessed for a job well done.

Sincerely, Sue Kimmel

## BRUNCH AND FORUM with Arnold Dahl-Wooley

**Sunday, June 23, 10:45am**

**Friendship Hall, Union Congregational Church**

The Justice Ministry Team is sponsoring a forum with Arnold Dahl-Wooley.

As a Two Spirit public speaker, Arnold is passionate about sharing the rich history and culture of LGBTQ+ in Native American culture. Through his presentations, Arnold aims to educate and inspire others to embrace diversity and inclusivity in our modern society.

Join us for food and a forum that will educate and remind us of our commitment to be welcoming and affirming to our community neighbors.



# ONGOING EVENTS

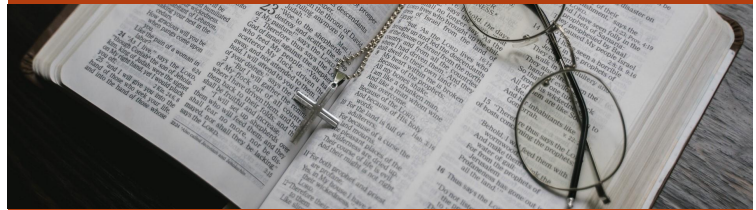


## Women's Fellowship

Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

### Winemaking with Don and Stan

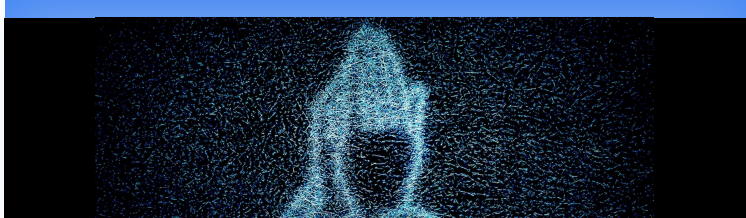
Any questions, please call the office at 218-675-6300  
or email the church at [media.ucchackmn@gmail.com](mailto:media.ucchackmn@gmail.com).



## Women's Bible Study

2nd & 4th Wednesdays from  
11:15 am to 12:45 pm

Any questions, please call the office at 218-675-6300  
or email the church at [media.ucchackmn@gmail.com](mailto:media.ucchackmn@gmail.com).



## Lectio Divina

Every Wednesday at 4:00 pm  
In the Church Library

Meaning "divine reading," Lectio Divina is a meditation and prayer practice intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word.



## Fit2Move Exercise Group

Every Wednesday at 10:00 am  
In the Friendship Hall

Any questions, please call the office at 218-675-6300  
or email the church at [media.ucchackmn@gmail.com](mailto:media.ucchackmn@gmail.com).

### Pastor Torri will be out of town for the follow dates:

**June 6-8** — Minnesota Annual Conference and Training  
**June 13-16** — Vacation

## JUNE SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER



Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 - 6:00 pm Friendship Hall  
Monthly Fundraiser Meals held throughout the summer!  
Free-will donation.

**Menu: Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Corn, Dessert**

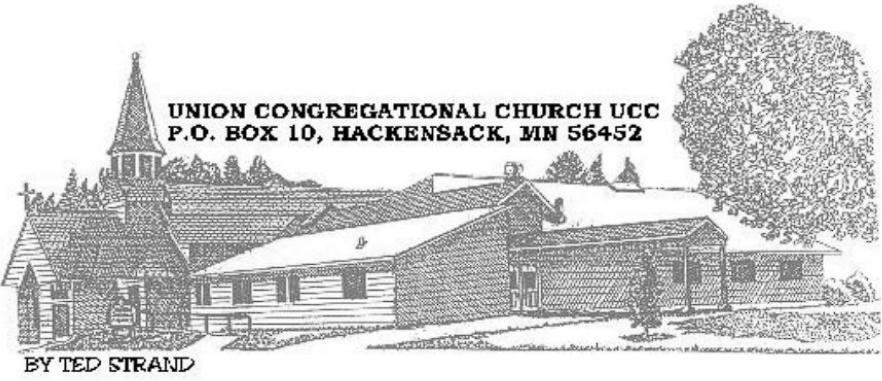


# Union Congregational Church, UCC, Hackensack MN

## June 2024

\* Community event

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	1 SATURDAY First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month
<b>2</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour 1:00 pm Birchview Church	<b>3</b> 1:00 pm Moderator/Vice Moderator Meeting 1:30 pm Bone Builders* 6:00 pm AA Open Meeting*	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Tech Team Meeting	<b>5</b> 10:00 am Fit2Move 4:00 pm Lectio Divina	<b>6</b> 7:30pm JMT Zoom Meeting	<b>7</b> Office Closed 1:30 pm Bone Builders*	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Worship Ministry Team Meeting 1:00 pm Birchview Church	<b>10</b> 1:30 pm Bone Builders* 6:00 pm AA Open Meeting* 7:30 pm Book Study	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Tech Team Meeting 10:30 am Sabbatical Planning Meeting	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Fit2Move 11:15 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Lectio Divina	<b>13</b> 1:00 pm Women's Fellowship	<b>14</b> Flag Day Office Closed 1:30 pm Bone Builders*	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Father's Day 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour 1:00 pm Birchview Church	<b>17</b> 1:30 pm Bone Builders* 6:00 pm AA Open Meeting* 7:30 pm Book Study	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Tech Team Meeting	<b>19</b> Juneteenth 10:00 am Fit2Move 4:00 pm Lectio Divina 5:00-6:00 pm Spaghetti Fundraiser 5:00-7:00 pm Northwoods Acoustic Jam	<b>20</b> 10:00am Dream Group 1:00-3:00pm Council Meeting	<b>21</b> Office Closed 1:30 pm Bone Builders*	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11am Forum w/ Arnold Dahl-Wooley 1:00 pm Birchview Church	<b>24</b> 1:30 pm Bone Builders* 6:00 pm AA Open Meeting* 7:30 pm Book Study	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Tech Team Meeting	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Fit2Move 11:15 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Lectio Divina	<b>27</b> 9:00-10:00 am Congregational Life Meeting 10:00am Dream Group 1:00-3:00 pm Fiber Arts*	<b>28</b> Office Closed 1:30 pm Bone Builders*	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Hour 1:00 pm Birchview Church						



UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC  
P.O. BOX 10, HACKENSACK, MN 56452

BY TED STRAND

**FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED**

THE UNION NEWS



ENJOY  
SUMMER!!

2024

