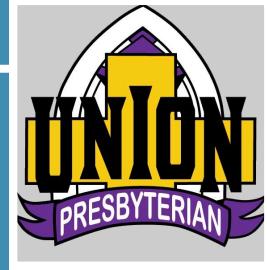


# Union News



UNION NEWS

AUGUST 2021

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Matthew 7:7-8

Dear Friends and Members of Union Presbyterian Church,  
 Over the last couple months, I've been reading through a devotional book called, "My Heart Cries Out: Gospel Meditations for Everyday Life," by Paul David Tripp. Tripp does not fancy himself as poet, but over the years had written "meditations" about certain Scriptures as a way to get his whole self (mind, spirit, and emotion) engaged with passages that focused more on the struggle it is to truly believe in God's amazing grace. I was immediately struck by Tripp's meditation "Everyone Preaches" when I first read it.

Every one of us is a preacher.  
 We are always preaching  
 some kind of gospel to  
 ourselves.

Every one of us is a theologian.  
 We are always repeating  
 some kind of belief system to  
 ourselves.

Every one of us is a philosopher.  
 We are always discussing  
 meaning and purpose with  
 ourselves.

Every one of us is an archaeologist.  
 We are always digging through  
 the mound of experience  
 that is our life,  
 making sense of  
 where we have been,  
 what we have done,  
 what you have done, and  
 who we've been with.

We are always doing this  
 because we are all  
 image bearers.

We are created to  
 think,  
 interpret,  
 feel,  
 know,  
 desire,  
 understand,  
 and worship.

*[continued on page 2]*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Communion	2
Worship in August	3
Bench Building Day	
Special Thank You	
School Tools	4
Rockin' Rally Retreat	
Upcoming News & Events	5
Church Finances	6
Celebrations	
PWNC Prayer Concerns	
Calendar	7

August Elders

Jason Cabe  
 Tim Grigg  
 Billy Jordan

Session  
August 15

Rally Day  
August 21

*[continued from previous page]*

In our searching for  
you.  
Every one of us is searching  
for what can only be found  
in you.  
So, every one of us needs your  
grace.  
For there is no life,  
there is no hope,  
there is no knowing,  
that does not begin with  
knowing you.

I have found myself coming back repeatedly to this “poem.” At first it stuck out to me because of how much I resonated with the first 4 lines. I know that when I am preparing to preach, my best sermons have been the ones that have been written for an audience of one.... me. Sometimes, I am so thankful for ya’ll at Union for not complaining when you hear me preach the same general idea over and over again for several weeks. They are messages I find myself needing to hear more than once in order to allow them to sink in.

But then, “Everyone Preaches,” got me thinking. While I often think of myself as a preacher, I don’t usually think of people who aren’t literally preaching each week as preachers. Yet don’t all of us “preach” to ourselves at least every once in a while? In the same way, while I think of myself as a preacher, I rarely think of myself as a theologian, philosopher, or archeologist. But when I really think about, I believe Tripp is right. In a way I am a theologian, pondering what I’m going to believe about this world and how God interacts with it. I am a philosopher, trying to find meaning for myself. And I am archeologist, trying to make sense of my past.

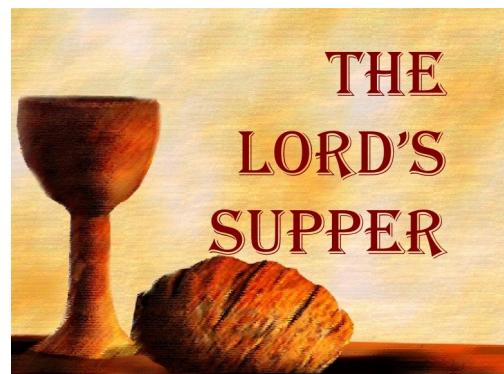
And here’s the thing, as I’ve thought about these roles over the last couple of months. I’ve also seen how my worship has changed. When I speak to myself about the **Good News of Christ** more regularly (as a preacher), I find myself having more to praise God about. When I think about how **God is at work** around me more often (as a theologian), I find myself more excited to worship God. When I’m looking around trying to find my purpose **in Christ** (as a philosopher) or looking back at my life (as a archeologist) not just for nostalgia’s sake but to see how **God has touched my life**, I can’t help but want to praise him for what he has done and is doing.

The more I seek God in all these roles, the more of God I’ve found. And it’s led me to praise him more often and more readily. Maybe we all can get better at being preachers, theologians, philosophers, and archeologist for Christ!

Sincerely in Christ,  
Pastor James

### Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

We hope that you will join us on **August 1** in a celebration of the Lord’s Supper. For the near future, we will also be continuing to use the specially sealed bread/juice containers. We celebrate Communion in remembrance of the price that was paid for our salvation.



## Worship for August

If I had to pick one book of the New Testament to read (outside of the Gospels) to look for hope, it would be 1 Peter. In this letter, Peter is writing to a group of churches that are being persecuted, feeling disconnecting from their communities and one another, and struggling in their walks with Christ. Peter used this letter to explain how God can fill us up in a way that can help us experience God's hope in all circumstances. I hope you will consider joining us in exploring 1 Peter this August.

You'll notice that each Sunday we will be focusing on one section from a new chapter of 1 Peter. You might consider reading the whole chapter as part of your own quiet times each week!

### *New Sermon Series: 1 Peter- Exiles Filled With Hope*

August 1: 1 Peter: 1:13-25, "Exiles Filled With Hope... Grace- Empowered Holiness"

-Celebration of the Lord's Supper

August 8: 1 Peter 2: 4-10, "Exiles Filled with Hope... Weighty Words"

August 15: 1 Peter 3: 8-16, "Exiles Filled with Hope...Bold Humility"

August 22: 1 Peter 4: 12-19, "Exiles Filled with Hope...Backwards Blessings"

August 29: 1 Peter 5: 8-14, "Exiles Filled with Hope... A Dash of Faith"

### *New Sermon Series: Called by Christ*

September 5: John 21: 15-19, "Called by Christ... Feeding Sheep"

-Labor Day Weekend

## Bench Building Day

Calling all handy men and women! As soon as the weather gets cooler, we will be building the 7 benches for Union's Walking Trails. The materials for the benches will already be cut so help is needed with the assembly of the benches. Please keep watch for the date and the tools that might be needed. Please let Billy Wilson know if you are interested in helping.

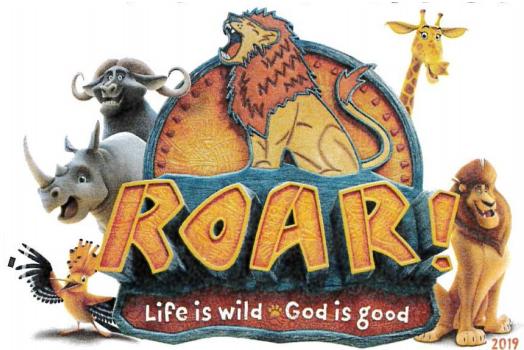
We will also use this date as a work day to get the trails ready for use by cutting back shrubs/roots, spraying poison ivy and dealing with the fence.,

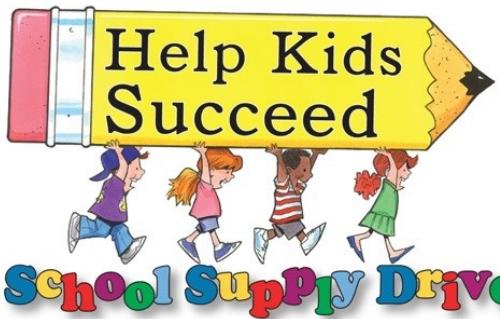
Please plan on joining us if you are able and lets get the Union Walking Trails open and ready for use to honor the Lord and to bless our community.



## Hear the Roar of “Thank You”

What a great time of fun and learning about Jesus we had in our VBS! Lots of love and labor went into this ministry to our youth and children. We would like to thank all the volunteers that shared their time and talents. Hear the ROAR.....as we applaud your ministry for our kids.





# SCHOOL TOOLS

**Deadline: August 22, 2021**

School Tools collection/competition with New Hope, Robinson and Olney churches has begun. The supplies collected will go to Bess, New Hope, Robinson and H. H. Beam. If there is an over abundance of supplies, they will also be used in our Blessing Box. Listed below are the items needed. With this ministry, let us bless the children who are in need! **Please place items in the cart in the Gathering Area.**

Items needed:

- Wooden #2 pencils (no lead or mechanical pencils)
- Yellow highlighters
- Washable markers (10 classic colors)
- Child safety scissors
- Elmer jumbo glue sticks
- 1 " three-ring binder notebooks (white)
- bottles of pump hand sanitizer
- boxes of Crayola crayons (24 count)
- Bottles of hand soap (to use with water)
- Colored Sharpies
- Plastic 3 prong folders with pockets
- Pencil boxes (not pouches)
- Earbuds
- Large headphones
- 1 subject spiral notebooks
- Post-it notes
- Index cards
- Skinny Expo -white board markers
- A few backpacks are needed

# ROCKIN' RALLY RETREAT

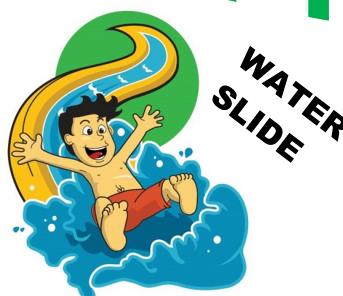
**Saturday  
August 21  
2 PM until 7 PM**



**Join us!**

This will be a great day of fellowship ,food and a whole lotta' fun! And you don't want to miss the

**SPECIAL SURPRISE!**



# Announcements and Upcoming Events

## Pastor's Vacation

Pastor James will be on vacation  
**Tuesday, August 10 through Saturday, August 14.**

### Welcome Bags

Thank you for helping us distribute the Welcome Bags. Twenty (20) bags went out on Sunday, July 18 to the new home owners in the Nolan Farms subdivision!

### Music Director

We are presently searching for a Music Director/Accompanist. The job description is posted at <https://www.unionpresbyterianchurch.com/new-job-position>. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please pass this information along. Thank you!

### Christmas Boxes for Samaritan's Purse

Christmas boxes are now available at the main entrance for collection of items for boys and girls. These boxes are due in **September** and you will find a list of items suggested on the table beside the boxes

### The Contest is On!

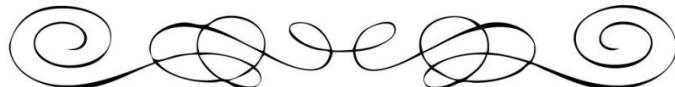
School Tools collection/competition with New Hope (New Hope Elementary), Robinson (Robinson Elementary) and Olney (H. H Beam) churches has begun. The supplies we collect will go to Bess. If there is an over abundance of supplies, they will also be used in our Blessing Box. Listed on the insert included in the newsletter are the supplies that are needed. The deadline for this collection is **August 22**. Let's win this competition and bless the children who are in need!

### Mission Trip Opportunity for PWNC

PWNC's Mission trip is set up to help with flood damage in Eastern North Carolina. The fall work trip is scheduled for **October 10** through **October 16** in Wilmington, NC and the cost is **\$75 per person**. Covid 19 vaccination is required to participate in this trip. At the main entrance into the Sanctuary there are packets of information and registration for the trip.

### Volunteers Needed

Gaston Area churches will be helping Camp Grier rebuild 3 of their buildings. We'll build parts of the buildings locally and then move them to Camp Grier for installation. We need volunteers to help with the construction we are doing here. If you are interested in helping, please see Billy Wilson.



### Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the card, book, necklace, candy and the Amazon gift card that was given to me for graduation. I am so thankful to be part of such a loving church family. My plans are to study nursing at USC Lancaster in the fall. I am very excited. Please keep me in your prayers as I start this new chapter of my life. Thank you again for your generosity and for being such a positive influence in my life.

Love Hannah Grigg

### Dear Church Family & Friends,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, food, flowers, phone calls, visits and many acts of kindness you have shown us during this difficult time. We are so thankful to have such a loving and caring church family. You all are very special to us and we appreciate your love and prayers. May God bless you.  
With much love, Melody Caldwell & Family

**FINANCIAL NEWS****June 30, 2021**

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$16,708	\$138,865
Expenses	<u>17,456</u> -748	<u>140,194</u> -1,329

**Monthly Budget Requirements                    \$18,958****Baby Bottler Campaign - \$90**

If you have any questions regarding the financial information of the Church, please feel free to contact Martha Simmons, Disbursing Treasurer, or any member of the Finance Committee. Martha is responsible for disbursements only. Questions regarding your financial giving to the Church should be directed to Jason Morrison, Treasurer.

**Presbytery Prayer Calendar****August 1**

Cherryville First  
107 West Academy Street  
Cherryville, NC 28021  
[jchampion@fpccnc.org](mailto:jchampion@fpccnc.org)

**August 8**

Clinchfield  
87 Greenwood Drive  
Marion, NC 28752  
[lauraclong@aol.com](mailto:lauraclong@aol.com)

**August 15**

Columbus  
21 Peniel Road  
Columbus, NC 28722  
[cpcatpeniel@windstream.net](mailto:cpcatpeniel@windstream.net)

**August 22**

Conley Memorial  
13853 US 221 North  
Marion, NC 28752  
[conleymemorialpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:conleymemorialpresbyterian@gmail.com)

**August 29**

Crossnore  
P.O. Box 386  
Crossnore, NC 28616  
[crospres@yahoo.com](mailto:crospres@yahoo.com)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion <b>After Worship</b> Men of the Church  2:30 PM SOC	2	3 10 AM Bible Study	4 6 PM C & T	5	6	7
8 12 PM W & C  2:30 PM W & S	9	10 6 PM B & G	11	12	13	14
		<b>Pastor on Vacation</b>				
15	16	17 10 AM Bible Study	18	19	20	21  Rockin' Rally Day 2 - 7 PM
22	23	24 10 AM Bible Study	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 10 AM Bible Study			<u>Each Sunday</u> 9AM Sunday School  10 AM Worship Service	

## **Union Presbyterian Church**

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[www.unionpresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.unionpresbyterianchurch.com)

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**Return Service Requested**

**Reverend James Holeman**  
**Pastor**

**Sherry Maples**  
**Music Director/Accompanist**

**Nancy Newman**  
**Administrative Assistant**

**Church Hours**  
**9:00 AM—1:00 PM**  
**Tuesday—Friday**  
**Office Closed Monday and Saturday**

**SAVE THE DATES**