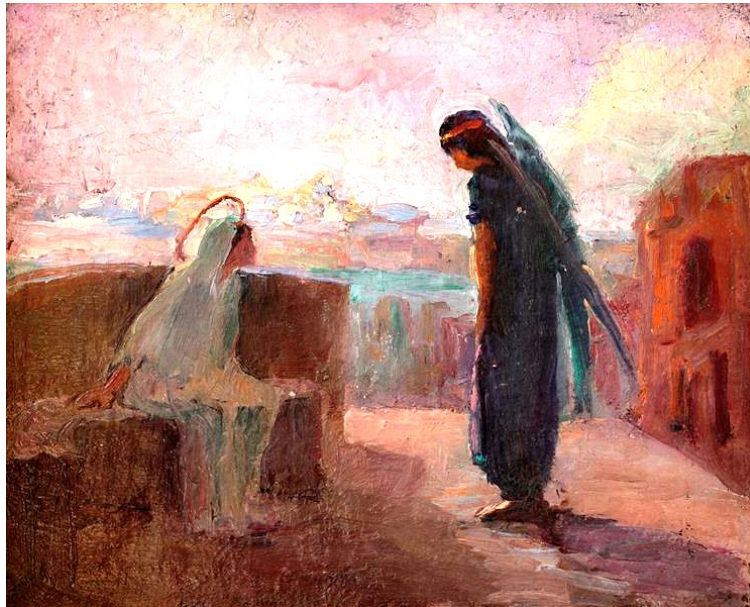


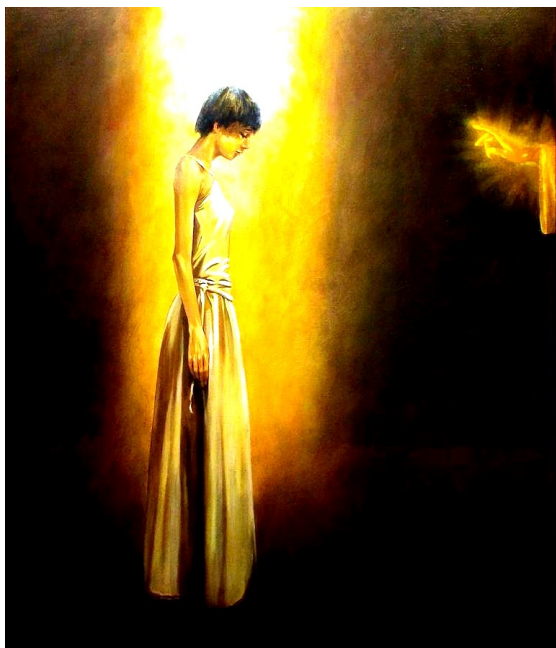
Dear Friends and Members of Union Presbyterian Church,

I've always been moved by the interaction between the Angel and Mary in the Nativity story. It would take such faith to trust God's crazy incarnational plan here. Pregnancy is something that already seems miraculous in so many ways... what would it have been like to carry in your womb the Word of God? I think the poem, "Annunciation," by Denise Levertov, captures some of wonder I feel every time I read this scripture passage.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Pastor James



"Annunciation"  
by Denise Levertov



She had been a child who played, ate,  
slept  
like any other child—but unlike others,  
wept only for pity, laughed  
in joy not triumph.  
Compassion and intelligence  
fused in her, indivisible.  
Called to a destiny more momentous  
than any in all of Time,  
she did not quail,  
only asked  
a simple, 'How can this be?'  
and gravely, courteously,  
took to heart the angel's reply,

*(Continued on next page)*

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Insert: Flyer	

#### **DECEMBER ELDERS**

Tim Grigg  
Sally McGinnis  
Eric Nelson

#### **COMMUNION**

December 4

#### **CONGREGATION MEETING**

December 11

#### **CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

December 11

#### **STATED SESSION**

December 18

#### **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

December 26 through  
January 3

*(continued from previous page)*



the astounding ministry she was offered:  
to bear in her womb

Infinite weight and lightness; to carry  
in hidden, finite inwardness,  
nine months of Eternity; to contain  
in slender vase of being,  
the sum of power—  
in narrow flesh,  
the sum of light.

Then bring to birth,  
push out into air, a Man-child  
needing, like any other,  
milk and love—  
but who was God.

This was the moment no one speaks of,  
when she could still refuse.

A breath unbreathed,  
Spirit,  
suspended,  
waiting.

---

She did not cry, 'I cannot. I am not worthy,'  
Nor, 'I have not the strength.'  
She did not submit with gritted teeth,  
raging, coerced.

Bravest of all humans,  
consent illumined her.  
The room filled with its light,  
the lily glowed in it,  
and the iridescent wings.

Saying yes to God was  
courage unparalleled,  
and opened her utterly.

## Worship in December

### Sermon Series: Wise Men

December 4: Matthew 2:1-8, "Wise Men... Where will You Seek?"

-Second Sunday of Advent, Celebration of the Lord's Supper

December 11: Matthew 2: 9-12, "Wise Men... Why will You Give?"

-Third Sunday of Advent

December 18: Matthew 2: 13- 18, "Wise Men... How much will it Hurt?"

-Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 25: Matthew: 1-1-17: "Gifts from the Stump of Jesse"

-Special Christmas Day Service

January 1: Guest Preacher

### Epiphany Sermon

January 8: Ephesians 3:1-12, "Epiphany.... Stuck on You"

-Celebration of the Lord's Supper





# UNION NEWS & EVENTS

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!

2 Corinthians 9:15



## Happy Years

You are invited to a great fellowship on **Wednesday, December 7 at 12 PM**. Bring some of your favorite pick-ups and let's enjoy some good food with good friends.

## Women of the Church

- Golden Girls Circle will meet **Monday, December 5 at 11 AM** at Janice Meek's home. Please bring toiletries items for the seniors at CAM and come enjoy!
- Soul Sisters will meet **Monday, December 5 at 7 PM**.
- The WOC will be having a "Card & Game Social" on **Saturday, December 10 at 12 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin with pizza, then play games and enjoy one another's fellowship. We ask you to please bring a pickup or dessert.

## Church Office

The church office will be closed **Monday, December 26** through **Monday, January 2** for vacation and the Christmas holiday.

## Addresses

Please add to your directory **Diane Glenn's** new address at 1009 Old Country Club Road, Apt. 119, Roanoke, VA 24017 Phone : 540-767-6942 Cell: 704-686-1093 and **Jieun Ha** at 2626 Brahman Meadows Lane, Charlotte, NC 28273.

## 5 Cent a Meal

The 5-Cents a meal offering taken on the **first Sunday of each month** will be contributed to the Blessing Box this December. The Blessing Box is an outreach with food to those in the community who are struggling.

## Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational meeting following the worship service on **Sunday, December 11**. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Elders, Trustee and the Nominating Committee members for the coming year.



## Pearl Henderson Scholarship

For those interested in applying for the Pearl Henderson Scholarship for Spring 2023, please submit your application, Spring schedule and prior semester grades to Leslie Harris by **December 15**. Applications can be found in her box at the church or she can send them electronically

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Please join us on **January 9, 2023** as we remember our Lord's Last Supper. Please note the date change due to the first Sunday of January being New Years Day.

## It's A Surprise!

You are invited to a **surprise** birthday party for Jamie Helms on **Saturday, January 7, 12 PM - 3 PM**. The party will be held here at Union in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP Teri Helms by **December 16**.



### Joy Gift Offering

Our special Joy gift offering this year will be received on **December 11** during the children's program and during worship on **December 18**. As you may be aware, part of our church's vision statement is to "enthusiastically welcome new additions to the community & be a place of Christian hospitality to our region." Session and our committees continue to work on how to make this vision a vital part of Union Church. This year's joy gift offering is just one more way that we are trying to live out this vision.

With the money received through this year's Joy Gift offering, we will be setting up an ongoing line item in our budget that can be used directly to help those in our community who are in need. Like our Congregation Care line item helps care for those in our congregation, we hope that this will help our church have another way to directly help those in need in our area. The Community Care line item will work much like Congregation Care line item and the funds will be accessible and managed by the members of Session. We hope that you will give generously and be on the look out for ways we can use these funds to help care for those in our community in the coming year!!



### Children's Program & Joy Gift

**Sunday, December 11 at 8:30 AM** we will have breakfast (no Sunday School) and after we will enjoy our Children's Christmas Program. We will also be receiving the Joy Gift offering on that day. Come and enjoy a good breakfast, enjoy the efforts of our children in their program and participate in the joy of giving.



### Christmas Caroling

Join us as we spread good cheer and the Christmas message in song at **2 PM on Sunday, December 18!**



### Santa's Mail Box

Do you wish you could send Christmas greetings to your church family but paying for all those stamps seems a little much? You may want to "mail" your Christmas cards to friends here at Union through our internal "Mailbox." The Santa Mailbox is located in the hall beside the Nursery. Also you might consider placing some of the money you would have used on stamps in the container on top of the mailbox (which will be added to our church's Christmas Joy Offering this year).





## Christmas Eve Service

EVERYONE IS INVITED

We will have a special “Christingle” Christmas Eve service again this year on **December 24**. The “christingle” is a specially decorated orange and candle combination used in worship to tell the story of Christ’s birth in a special way for all ages.

### What Worship Will Look Like

We invite you to drop in the **Fellowship Hall** sometime between **7:30 and 8 PM** to make your own “christingle” before worship. Worship will begin at **8 PM** in the **Sanctuary** (there will be traditional candlelight service candles available for the service). We will use the christingles for our tradition of singing Silent Night and Joy to the World.



### History of the “Christingle”

(From: <https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/christingles.shtml>)

The idea of the christingle came from a Moravian Church in Germany in 1747. The minister, John de Watteville, gave children a lighted candle with a red ribbon around it. This represented Jesus being the light of the world. The custom was brought with missionaries as they shared Christ around the world.

## Christmas Day Service

**Christmas**

**Day Service**

### December 25th

Are you the kind of person who loves reading the genealogy parts of the Bible? Most of us don’t. In fact, many believe that the genealogies are the most often skipped sections of Scripture. And yet, did you know that there is a genealogy included in the Christmas story? Matthew 1 actually begins with the author listing Jesus’ lineage all the back to Abraham.

On December 25th, we invite you to join us at 10:00 AM (no Sunday School) for a special Christmas Day Worship Service. The service will be called “Gifts from the Stump of Jesse.” It will be one part a “Lessons & Carols Service;” as we read Scripture, hear stories of individuals from the Old Testament whose lives pointed forward to Christ, and sing a bunch of Christmas carols. The service will also be one part Christmas morning living room fun; as we watch presents get opened that help demonstrate some of why Jesus is so incredible! There will even be a small gift for everyone who comes to the service!

We hope that you will leave this year’s Christmas Day service even more excited about Christ. But you might even find yourself a little more excited about Biblical genealogies as the service ends too!



## FINANCIAL NEWS October 2022

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$14,077	\$170,734
Expenses	<u>16,693</u>	<u>176,510</u>
	-2,616	- 5,776

Following are unexpected expenditures that impact our financial picture.

January: repair exterior leak in the Sanctuary  
**Cost: \$6285**

April: digital music machine for Sanctuary  
**Cost: \$2854**  
fire & safety inspection  
**Cost: \$857**

July: Church computer for Martha  
**Cost: \$642**

Please pray for our Church, Pastor James and our leaders as we work through the day to day operations of maintaining God's House.

Jason Morrison - Receiving Treasurer  
Martha Simmons - Disbursing Treasurer



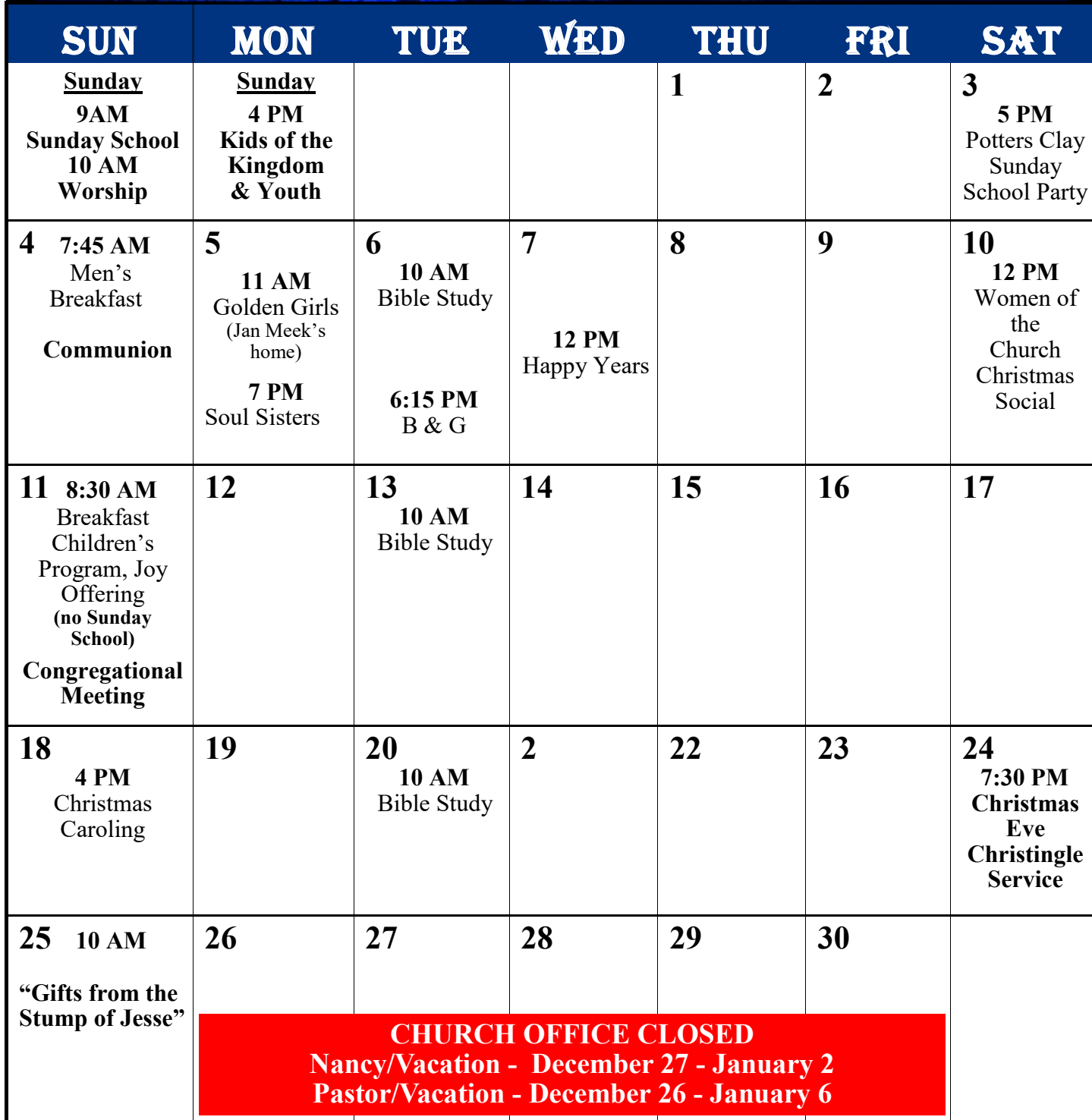
- Thank you to all who have given so generously to the Blessing Box through the year. We have been able to keep it stocked for the blessing of those who are in need.
- Thank you to all who so generously gave to the Samaritan Purse Christmas Boxes. **Twenty one boxes** were delivered!
- Many thanks to everyone that helped with the Christmas decorations. It is such a blessing when we all work together to honor the birth of our Savior. Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas,! Love in Christ, Melody
- A very special thank you to all of you ladies that have been so quick to help get the newsletter mailed each month!



**"GOD IS NOT UNJUST; HE WILL NOT FORGET  
YOUR WORK AND THE LOVE YOU HAVE  
SHOWN HIM AS YOU HAVE HELPED HIS  
PEOPLE AND CONTINUE TO HELP THEM."**

**Hebrews 6:10**





## Union Presbyterian Church

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**Return Service Requested**

Reverend James Holeman  
Pastor

Nancy Newman  
Administrative Assistant

Jieeun Ha  
Accompanist

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

## SAVE THE DATES

December 11	Children's Christmas Play
December 11	Congregational Meeting
December 18	Christmas Caroling
December 24	Christmas Eve Christingle Service
December 25	"Gifts from the Stump of Jesse"