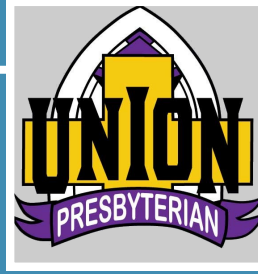


UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Union News



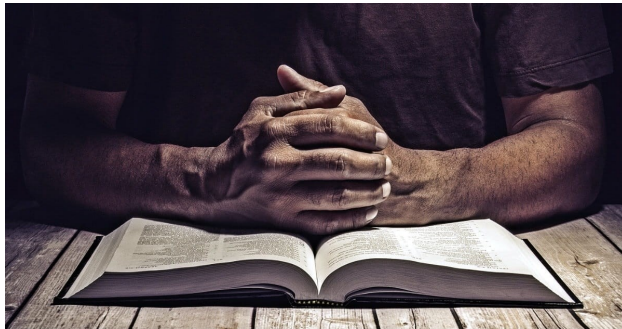
UNION NEWS

OCTOBER
2023

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”

Psalm 1

Dear Members and Friends of Union Presbyterian Church,
So, what does it look like to get better at prayer? How does one go about deepening their prayer life? Do you just need to do it more... practice makes perfect, right? Do you need to try something different... so we don't get stuck in a rut? Does praying in different places or at different times make a huge difference? Probably all of these things affect our prayer lives to some degree.



In his book “Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God,” Timothy Keller highlights one thing above all others, when it comes to deepening our prayer lives. He argues that the best thing we can do to get better at prayer is to meditate on Scripture more. He (and many others before him) have noted that the Christian prayer book of the Bible is the book of

Psalms. The various prayers in this book were not put there haphazardly. It was purposeful. So, we should find it interesting that the first psalm in the book of Psalms is one of the least “prayer-like.” Psalm 1 sounds more like it belongs in the book of Proverbs. It is kind of like an introduction to the rest of the psalms. Could Psalm 1 be telling us that if we really want to get the most out of the psalms (and the most out of prayer), then we need to prepare ourselves using Psalm 1 as a guide?

Psalm 1 explains that we are blessed if we delight in God’s Word and meditate on it day and night. The Psalmist uses an incredible metaphor of a person who meditates on God’s word being like a tree planted by the water. Meditation on God’s Word apparently keeps us rooted to God, allows us at times to produce great fruit, and keeps us strong and secure during spiritually dry or cold seasons.

Studying God’s word and prayer are not just 2 things Christians do in isolation because we are supposed to. They can inform one another. The better we know God’s heart and mind (through Scripture) the better we know what to pray for and the better we hear God’s voice. Understanding better who God is, should make us want to come into his holy presence in prayer and more often to seek his face.

(continued on next page)

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October Elders

Tammy Biddix
Jason Morrison
Faye Harrell

Communion

October 1

Stated Session

October 15

(continued from previous page)

Taking time and time again to read about the great lengths God went to save us, should lead us to praise. Understanding better what it means to be holy and set apart, should help us both be better at knowing God's will and lead more often to confession. Growth in prayer should be closely connected to growth in our delight of God's Word. Could deepening prayer actually be one of the fruits Psalm 1 says comes from being rooted in God's Word?

For those who have not heard, Timothy Keller passed away this last May after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. In a book that has just come out that celebrates Keller's life by examining Keller's spiritual and intellectual formation, Colin Hansen argues that Keller's Christian formation was also sort of like a tree (like the one in Psalm 1). Hansen writes that Keller never said that he had an original thought, he always claimed that he was just good at synthesizing information. Keller was always quick to credit his influences. His influences sort of look like the inner rings on a tree (a bunch of people and events that came together to shape what Keller believed and did with his life). Could meditating on Scripture create the same sort of rings in us? Could meditation on Scripture be the best thing to shape us into people who know God better, understanding his will more completely, help us better hear his prodding, and lead us to grow in our desire to praise, repent, and give more of our lives over to God through prayer? Could our prayer lives deepen exponentially, if we simply took a few moments each time we read Scripture, to consider how that passage should change how we approach God in prayer?

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor James

P.S. Did you know that both of the books I mentioned in this opening article, "Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God," and "Timothy Keller: His Spiritual and Intellectual Formation," can be found in our new discipleship library in our church's prayer room (across from the Sanctuary). Our church's discipleship library is full of books that can help us grow in how well we know God, how we connect to him, and how we might serve him better

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

This October we begin a new 4-week series looking at what we can learn about being a neighbor from Jesus in Luke 5 and 10. Following this series, we will look through the eyes of some of the minor prophets of the Bible to see what a relationship with God might look like when times are tough. Come check it out!!

Sermon Series: Won't You Be My Neighbor?

October 1: Luke 5: 12-16, "Neighboring... Anything But That!"

-Celebration of the Lord's Supper; World Communion Sunday

October 8: Luke 5: 27-35, "Neighboring...

Anywhere But There!"

October 15: Luke 10: 25-37, "Neighboring...

Anyone But Them!"

October 22: Luke 10: 38-42, "Neighboring...

Anytime But Now!"

-Service Sunday

Lectionary Sermon Series: In a Minor Key

October 29: Malachi 3: 1-7, "Malachi"

November 5: Joel 2: 10-14, "Joel"

-All Saints Day; Celebration of the

Lord's Supper; Daylight's Saving End





DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR WEBSITE CAN DO THAT?

Have you ever noticed how sometimes things change around us and we are not even aware that the change has happened? Union's website is sort of like that. The website we have today may have the same address (<https://www.unionpresbyterianchurch.com>), but it looks very different from what it looked like even 5 years ago! If it has been a while since you have checked our website, you might not be even aware of some of the new things it does today!

DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR WEBSITE NOW INCLUDES OUR ACTUAL CHURCH CALENDAR?

-It's true! In the past our website just had a copy of a general month calendar from the newsletter. Now our actual church calendar is posted. As changes are made to our official office calendar, Tammy, our office administrator, updates the calendar on our webpage. Now, you can know very accurately what is going on at the church from the comfort of your own home.

-To find our online calendar simply use the top menu "News & Info" and click on "Calendar."

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN SEND IN PRAYER REQUESTS THROUGH OUR WEBPAGE?

-Do you have a prayer request for the church? You can submit it from our webpage! You can even mark whether you want that prayer private (just between you, the web administrator, and the Pastor) or if you want it included on our weekly prayer request list and have it sent to our prayer team!

-To request a prayer you can hit the big red button on the main home page or use the top menu "Find & Contact Us" and click on "Prayer Requests."

DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR WEBPAGE ALLOWS YOU TO GIVE ONLINE?

-That's right! You don't need to remember to bring your tithes and offerings to worship, you can give through our webpage! Our webpage can connect you to the Tithe.ly app. You can give just once or set Tithe.ly up for recurring giving!

-To give online you can hit the correct yellow button on the main home page or use the top menu "For Members" and click on "Online Giving."

DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR WEBPAGE INCLUDES SOME PRETTY GREAT HELP FOR STUDYING SCRIPTURE?

-Are you wanting to include more study of the Bible in your daily routine? Our website contains links to d365 (a daily youth devotion), Life for Leaders (a daily adult devotion), a plan you can use to read the whole Bible in 1 year, and a link to the Bibleproject (an amazing site with all sorts of materials to help you study Scripture on your own).

-To check out any of these resources just hit the correct green button on the main home page or use the top menu "Worship" and click on "Daily Devotions & Study."

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN WATCH OUR WORSHIP SERVICES THROUGH OUR WEBPAGE?

-Did you miss a Sunday's service? You can always worship from home. Videos of our Sunday Morning Worship Service are posted on the webpage every Sunday afternoon!

-To worship with us online just hit the correct yellow button on the main home page or use the top menu "Worship" and click on "Online Worship Services."

How many of these awesome web-features did you not know about? Well, now you know!! We invite you to take time this October to explore more of the great features of our website!! Scan the QR Code here to take you directly to our website!



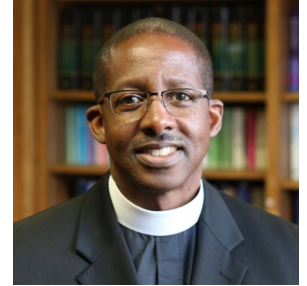
UNION ENSEMBLE



Have you ever been a part of Union's choir? Ever wish you were part of a choir? Do you love to sing? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, we would like to invite you to consider joining the Union Church Ensemble! Starting in October the Union Ensemble will meet right after church 2 times a month to practice songs to sing as anthems during worship! No previous choir experience is required! We hope to begin singing in worship in November and to be ready to bring/sing in the Christmas season. Keep your eyes/ears tuned to the phone tree and bulletin for when we will begin! If you have any questions please talk to Pastor James or Larry Meek on the Worship & Commitment Committee.

GUESS WHO'S COMING FOR WORSHIP!

On **October 8th**, Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina is scheduled to join us for worship. Byron Wade is trying to visit every church in the Presbytery and Session is looking forward to his visit here. This visit has nothing to do with Union's concerns about the denomination, rather it is an opportunity to meet some of the leadership of our Presbytery. Byron Wade will speak briefly at the beginning of worship and lead us in our opening prayer. He will also be available to greet and talk with folks after the service. Please extend to him your warmest welcome!



ALL SAINTS DAY

On **November 5**, we will be celebrating **All Saints Day** during our worship service at church. During worship there will be an extended period of prayer to thank God for the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and helped mold our faith. Those in worship will be invited to share the names of those, now in heaven, that have impacted their relationship with God.



The Worship and Commitment Committee wishes to encourage us a little more that day. The week before November 5, tables will be brought into the hallways near the Gathering Area. We invite you to bring a couple items of significance from your family (a piece of furniture or item passed down in your family for multiple generations or something that was made/ built by a relative) to display in the hallway. Please include a brief written description of the items' significance and place it with those items. Following the worship service, on November 5th there will be light refreshments in the Gathering Area as we enjoy these small reminders left by those who have gone before us.

SERVICE SUNDAY

Finance Committee has planned our next **Service Sunday for October 22!** The congregation will meet in the sanctuary at 9:30 am for a brief worship service before moving out into the community to be "Christ's hands and feet" in service to our neighbors. Several projects are planned, some on-site at the church, while others will be in our neighborhood. Please mark this date on your calendar to reflect the light and love of Christ to the world.

STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY

Dedication Sunday will be **November 19**. Please be in prayer as God moves your heart as you consider your gifts of time, talent, and resources to his ministry at Union for 2024.



MAN OF THE YEAR

The Man of the Year dinner will be held on **October 21st at 5:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall honoring Brice Thompson, Jr. We will also recognize the last three recipients Lewis Brooks for 2019, Bud Whitson for 2020 and Charlie Nelson for 2021. We have been unable to celebrate these recipients due to COVID, so we hope you will join us for a night to honor each of these well deserving men.



CHICKEN AND DUMPLING FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 4th**. The Men of the Church will have their annual Chicken and Dumpling fundraiser that night from **5:30-7:00**. Please make plans to attend and support this important ministry.

MEN OF THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP EVENT

The next Men's Fellowship outing will be on **Tuesday October 10 at 6:00 p.m.** at Amberjacks Restaurant. All men and youth are encouraged to attend. Please let Larry Meek know if you are able to come.



BINGO AT TERRACE RIDGE

We will resume Bingo at Terrace Ridge on the third Thursday of each month at 3PM. This month we will on **October, September 19th**. Please join us if you are able, you are sure to be blessed!



BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Bible Study at 10:00 AM is starting a brand new book of the Bible. Join us to check it out.

HAPPY YEARS

The Happy Years Club will be meeting on **October 18th (Wednesday) with lunch provided at 12 p.m.** Lunch will be BBQ chicken, ham, sweet potato casserole, other sides, plus dessert and tea. Please join us for food and fun fellowship. After the meal, someone will be there for informal troubleshooting and problem solving on tablets and cell phones. Android phones and tablets are preferred but iPad/iPhone/Apple products are welcome. Plan to attend and bring a friend. Contact Kathy Kytly (704-861-1313 or kshasta@bellsouth.net) if you have any questions.

FALL CARNIVAL

Our Older Youth are sponsoring our annual Fall Carnival on **Saturday, October 28th**. We will have games and food inside from **5-6:30** and then Trunk or Treat will be open from 6:30-7:30. There will be hayrides, hotdogs, and lots of fun! We need donations of individually wrapped candy as well as baked goods for our famous cake walk! We hope to see you there!



LIFESPAN UPDATE



Lifespan is still busy at work in our community. Please scan the QR code to watch a short clip of the cooking lessons that were held right here at Union this summer. The classes were an opportunity for the participants to get hands on experience with real life skills like building hand dexterity, following multi-step directions, and sharing a meal with friends. Please continue to pray for this group!



PRESBYTERY PRAYER CALENDAR & PRAYER CONCERNS

Duncan's Creek
C/O Joe Brooks
P.O. Box 568
Bostic, NC 28018

Ellenboro
P.O. Box 189
Ellenboro, NC 28040

Etowah
P.O. Box 384
Etowah, NC 28729

Fairview
P.O. Box 2460
Lenoir, NC 28645

- The Rev. **Susan Denne**, former moderator of the Presbytery, seeks prayers for several of her family members. Include Susan on you list as well as she recovers from a broken foot.
- Continue to be in prayer for the Rev. **Beth Newman** who is currently in Northside Hospital at Atlanta recovering from chemo in preparation for an eventual stem cell transplant. A bone marrow biopsy is scheduled for Sept. 25.
- Prayers requested for **Robbin Buchanan** of the Presbytery staff. She is recovering from a hip replacement.
- Hold **Ronnie Puckett**, husband of former PWNC staff member Marcia Puckett, in prayer as he continues immunotherapy every six weeks for his cancer. His last scan results showed that he continues to hold stable.





UNION CHURCH CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <u>Sunday</u> 9AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship Communion 5 Cents a Meal 2:30 PM SOC	2 11 AM Golden Girls 6 PM W & S 7 PM Soul Sisters	3 10 AM Bible Study	4 6 PM Book Study	5 8 AM HOME Co-Op 6 PM Women's Council	6	7
8 Byron Wade visits at worship Youth Trip to Shelby Corn Maze	9	10 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM MOC Fellowship	11 6 PM Book Study	12 8 AM HOME Co-Op 6 PM C & T	13	14
15 Ella Nelson Baptized 2:30 PM Session	16	17 10 AM Bible Study	18 12 PM Happy Years 6 PM Book Study	19 8 AM HOME Co-Op 3 PM Bingo	20	21 5:30-7 PM Men of the Year Dinner
22 9:30 AM Worship 10 AM Service Sunday	23	24 10 AM Bible Study	25	26	27	28 5-7:30 PM Fall Carnival
29 11 AM W & C Meeting	30	31 10 AM Bible Study				

Union Presbyterian Church

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www.unionpresbyterianchurch.com

Non-Profit Organization

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Permit No. 8

Return Service Requested

Reverend James Holeman
Pastor

Tammy Biddix
Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Nelson
Communications Director

Jieeun Ha
Accompanist

Church Hours
3:00 PM—6 PM
Tuesday and Thursday



- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| October 1 | 5 Cents of Meal & World Communion |
| October 8 | Byron Wade Visits during Worship |
| October 21 | Men of the Year Dinner |
| October 22 | Service Sunday |
| October 28 | Fall Carnival & Trunk or Treat |
| November 4 | MOC Chicken & Dumplings Fundraiser |