



*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 10: 31

Dear Members and Friends of Union Presbyterian Church,

This month, October 27th, is Reformation Sunday. It is a Sunday on the church calendar to remember the importance of the Protestant Reformation. Central to the Protestant Reformation are the Five Solas. In the book, “Solas: How the Five Solas Are Still Reforming the Church,” Jason K. Allen writes that, “the five solas are the theological distinctives that separate Protestants from the Catholic Church. They are Scripture, faith, grace, Christ, and to the Glory of God alone.” David Vandruden in “God’s Glory Alone: the Majestic Heart of Christian Faith and Life” sums up that these 5 solas (or alones) as (1) believing that Christ alone and no other is our redeemer, the mediator of our salvation, (2) that grace alone, and no other human contribution, saves us, (3) that faith alone and no other human action, can allow someone to be saved, (4) that Scripture alone and no other human derived word should be our ultimate authority, and (5) that God’s glory alone is the supreme end of all things.

It isn’t that the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th Century did not believe in the authority of Scripture, putting faith in God’s grace, the cross of Jesus Christ, or the importance of doing everything for the glory of God. The Roman Catholic Church believed these things. The difference between Catholics and Protestants then was with one word from the 5 Solas... the word “solas” (Latin for “alone”). Protestants believe that when it comes to salvation NOTHING ELSE can or should be added to Scripture, God’s grace, our faith, or Christ’s death and resurrection. Further we should seek to glorify God alone... and nothing or no one else. The difference even today between Catholic and Protestant Christians is just that one word... “alone.”

Vandruden in “God’s Glory Alone,” goes on to argue that of the 5 solas (alone(s)), the one that holds them all together is God’s Glory Alone. You see, one can only believe that salvation is by faith alone, grace alone, and Christ alone (without any contribution on our part) if we believe that God’s glory is the one and only important thing. Likewise, one can only say that Scripture alone should be our final and ultimate authority, if we believe that no church, church leader, or wise sage can come up with anything better than God’s word in Scripture. You have to believe that the best humanity has to offer could never come anywhere close to competing with God’s glory, to truly believe in the 4 other alone(s).

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#### **October Elders**

Eddie Moton  
Tim Grigg  
Allison Jones

#### **Communion**

October 6

#### **Stated Session**

October 20

How does understanding “to God’s Glory Alone” affect us? Well, in a very real sense it should help keep us in the sweet spot between humility and steadfastness. First understanding God’s glory should help keep us humble. Allen writes in “Solas” that “at an innate level, fallen mankind doesn’t want God to be God. We don’t want the Lord to get the glory that is due His name. We want the glory for ourselves.” Every day, every moment of our lives we must fight the urge to increase in prominence, to do things the easy way, to just be comfortable, to seek fame and power, to just do what makes us happy. There is a sinful part in each of us that does not want to decrease so that the Lord can increase. We want our happiness to increase all the time on our own terms.

But Glorifying God alone can also help us stay steadfast! It’s easy at times for Christians to feel stuck. We can get confused about where God is leading us next. No matter how much we pray or read the Bible we can still have trouble discerning what God wants next for us. Sometimes we can even get so focused on doing things just right for God, that we begin to feel paralyzed, worried that we might mess things up. In his book “Solas,” Allen writes that a Christian never needs to fret like this. We simply need to do the next thing before us to the Glory of God. He writes, “The God-glorifying life is the free life, a joyful life... God it turns out, is not in the business of squelching human interest, grandness, greatness, or honor. God is in the business of re-routing this interest, redeeming it, and sending it heavenward. The Lord wants to take [us] self-centered glory-seekers and make us God-centered glory seekers.” For God it is not about “what” we are doing next that is as important as whether our hearts are centered-on God as we do those “what(s).” God wants us focused on loving God and those around us more than ourselves as we do our “what(s).” And He wants us and telling everyone who will listen that we are doing all those “what(s)” for Christ.

Did you know that the phrase “for God’s Glory Alone,” was never actually uttered by one of the leaders of the Protestant Reformation? The Reformers embraced the concept. It summed up what they believed. But it was never a phrase any of them used. Allen in “Solas” writes that we actually have the musicians Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frideric Handel to thank for the phrase. In many of their music compositions, Bach and Handel would write this phrase in Latin at the end of their works. It was a reminder for themselves and everyone else who these pieces of music were actually written for (God), and who was ultimately responsible for their creation (again... God). You see, all of us have a calling. Whether we are creating music, assembling a chair, apologizing to someone we have wronged, changing a diaper, volunteering at a school, listening to a friend, laughing with a loved one, or shopping at a store, we are called to do that job to the glory of God. We shouldn’t have the starring role. Christ has that honor. We are called to be steadfast, to do that task before us the best one can. And like Bach and Handel, we need to make sure that our hearts and our voices are pointing to Christ and giving God the Glory each day.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Pastor James

## WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

### Lectionary Sermon Series: Job... in Pieces

October 6- Job 1: 1; 2:1-10, “In Pieces... Curses at the Tip of the Tongue”  
-Celebration of the Lord’s Supper; World Communion Sunday  
October 13- Job 23: 1-9; 16-17, “In Pieces... When God Feels Far Away”  
October 20- Job 38: 1-7, 16-17, “In Pieces... Questions for Questions”  
October 27- Job 42: 1-6, 10-17, “In Pieces... Pride Go-eth Before & After the Fall”  
-Reformation Sunday

### Lectionary Sermon: At the Table

November 3- Psalm 24; Isaiah 25: 6-9, “At the Table”  
-All Saint’s Day Sunday; Celebration of Lord’s Supper; Daylight Savings Ends

A couple special worship events are also just around the corner at the church. Join us **October 6** for **World Communion**. Then on **November 3** we will take time during worship to celebrate the **Christian Saints** that have gone before us and have influenced our walks with Christ.

There will be a bin on the rotunda table this month where you are invited to place hard copies of pictures of loved ones who impacted your faith to be acknowledged on All Saints Day. You can place those pictures in a provided envelope and label the envelopes with their names and yours (so we can get the pictures back to you). You can also digitally send pictures to: [unionpc5615@gmail.com](mailto:unionpc5615@gmail.com).



### UPATE FROM THE UNION YOUTH TASK FORCE

You may not be aware that we have a Youth Task Force. The Youth Task Force was created to assist our youth workers and develop ways to help grow our youth programs (children, youth, and young adult). We have been meeting for over a year now and in that time we have been brainstorming how we, as a small church, can have programs for our community that youth of all ages can come to Union for in order to grow closer to God and fellowship with one another.

As a former youth leader I spent many hours with other volunteers studying lessons for youth group meetings, planning youth events and fundraisers, holding youth events at the church, traveling with the youth, etc. These tasks take a lot of time for volunteers in addition to their “day job.” Our church has seen many volunteers help with our youth programs throughout the years and do the best that they can with the amount of time that they have.

The Youth Task Force has been trying to relieve some of the burden off our youth volunteers by helping them plan events, gather other volunteers as chaperons, contact parents, etc. The Youth Task Force has also been talking with consultants about how to better structure our youth programs so that we can try and reach more youth and bring them closer to God. In the coming months the Youth Task Force will share more information about what we are doing and why and we hope that our church will come along beside us and help us to help the youth in our community to grow closer to God.

Sincerely- Tim Grigg

### SESSION UPDATE

The discernment process on whether Union should continue to be affiliated with the PCUSA denomination is moving forward steadily. Last month, the Session met with representatives from the ECO Denomination (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians). It was a very positive and productive meeting to “get the ball rolling” with affiliating with this new denomination if the congregation ultimately decides to disaffiliate with PCUSA. We invite you to find out more about the ECO denomination yourself at: [eco-pres.org](http://eco-pres.org).

Union and the administrative commission of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina has also had Union’s property appraised. Our 17.14 acres of property (including multiple property plots, several buildings, the cemetery, and manse) was appraised on September 10 by Miles Hamrick to be valued at \$1,832,000.00. In the coming months the dismissal team from Union will meet with the PWNC Administrative Commission to negotiate what it will cost for Union to be dismissed from the PCUSA and the exact number needed for a quorum at a Congregational Meeting to vote for dismissal. If you have any questions about the meeting with ECO, the property appraisal, or where we are at in the discernment process, please contact any of the elders on Session. Thank you.

# Upcoming EVENTS



## BOOK CHICKS

Join us monthly during our Book Chicks book club meetings for some food, fun, and fellowship! For more information or to find out what book we are reading, please reach out to Kim Morrison. Our next meeting is **Monday, October 21st, at 6:30 PM.**

## BINGO

Join us for BINGO at Terrace Ridge on **Thursday, October 17th at 3 PM.** You are sure to receive many blessings from this outreach event!



## HAPPY YEARS

Happy Years will not meet this month. The next meeting will be a combined November/December meeting to celebrate the holidays. Keep your eyes out for more information about this event!

## MEN OF THE CHURCH MEETING

The next Men of the Church Planning meeting will be at **8 AM** on **October 13th!**



## FALL CARNIVAL

This year, Union's Fall Carnival will be **October 26**, from **6-8 PM!** The carnival will be from 6-7:30 followed by Trunk or Treat from 7:30-8 PM. More information will be coming soon for this Spook-ti-fun-ing event!!

## OCTOBER OLDER YOUTH EVENTS

During the month of October the Older youth have some serious fun planned!

- On **October 13**, they will be headed out to a nearby **pumpkin' patch.**
- On **October 25**, they will be **setting up the Fall Carnival** from **5-7:30 PM** then heading out to a **haunted trail** from **7:30-9 PM**
- On **October 26**, they will put on **Union's Fall Carnival** from **6-8 PM!**

## CHICKEN 'N DUMPLINGS

The Men of the Church are putting on a community meal of **Chicken 'N Dumplings** on **October 5** from **5:30 - 7PM.** Come for incredible food and stick around for the amazing fellowship! The menu will include: black-eyes peas, slaw, cornbread, muffins, biscuits, pound cake, tea, and of course loads of chicken 'n dumpling goodness! All donations will be given to aid in Hurricane Helene relief.

## KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

Kids of the Kingdom got off to an exciting start this September with a Water Day and field trip to Kate's Skates. All kids ages kindergarten through fifth grade are welcome to join us on the **second and fourth Sunday** of each month from **3:30-5 PM** for fun, fellowship, and outreach activities. Our field trip this month is to the **Pumpkin Patch on October 12.** We'll stay after Service Sunday, have lunch together, and head out for a fun afternoon! Please reach out to Kimberly Morrison, Leslie Harris, or Vicky Holeman if you have questions or know of a child who would attend if they had help with transportation.



## 5 CENT A MEAL

This month, our 5 Cent a meal special offering will be used to support **Crisis Assistance Ministry**. If you are able, we invite you bring a little extra to give on **October 6**.

## OCTOBER PRAYER WALK

Please join us this month on **October 23rd** at **6PM** for our **October Prayer Walk**. The Prayer Walk is a tangible way that we can share God with members of the community as we pray for their homes and families. This will be our last prayer walk until Spring.



### UNION ENSEMBLE

During the month of October the Union Ensemble will meet on **October 6** and **October 20**. Hope you can join us!

## FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP ZOOM PRAYER

Join Jim Truesdale, for a **30-minute Zoom** call at **8 PM** on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of each month, to pray for the mission work being done by **Frontier Fellowship** in Southeast Asia. You can join this meeting at using your home computer by registering with the following link: <https://frontierfellowship.zoom.us/j/7582828282>

You can also meet at the church at 8PM on October 17<sup>th</sup> for the group zoom call.



## SERVICE SUNDAY

**Service Sunday** is fast approaching on **October 13<sup>th</sup>** and the Finance Committee has three different mission projects that we would like to present to you. As with previous years, our Sunday worship looks a little different on Service Sunday. We will be gathering for a short time of prayer and worship in the **Sanctuary** at **9:30 AM**. Then head out to work on one of three projects. There will be no Sunday School on Service Sunday. The contact person for each of these projects is listed in parentheses:

1. Gastonia Street Ministry (Pastor James)
2. Least of These (Pam Moton and Sally McGinnis)
3. Assisted Living Project (Claire Cabral)

We are trying to do something a little different with the projects this year. Rather than have a selection of “one and done” projects, we are trying to highlight and support 3 ministries in Gastonia that individuals, families, groups within the church, and the church as a whole could support more regularly throughout the year. All 3 of the projects are appropriate for all ages, ability levels, and skill sets. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this enjoyable and worthwhile event in service to our Lord, Jesus Christ.



### PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Join us in the **Prayer Room** on the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the October**, (right after 10 AM service) for **Prayer After Worship**. There will be time during the prayer (or one on one afterward) to anoint with oil those feeling called by God for a specific purpose or are in special need. Everyone is invited for this time of prayer

## CONNECTIONS.... NEW ADULT SUDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Are you currently involved in an Adult Sunday School Class? If not, then we invite you to give Union's new class, **Connections**, a try! The **Connections Class** examines the connection between several Scriptures on a similar theme, and then explores how that theme connects to our walk with Christ. During the month of **October** the class will be wrapping up a study on its first theme: *Covenant*. Then on **October 27<sup>th</sup>** the class will start a new theme on *Holiness*. What does it look like to worship/ serve a God who is Holy? Join us to find out!!

## 30 DAY SCRIPTURE PRAYER CHALLENGE

Use this page to look up each scripture reference in your preferred translation and turn the scripture into a personal prayer.

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. PSALM 143:8              | 16.2 TIMOTHY 1:7         |
| 2. PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4        | 17. 1 PETER 5:6-7        |
| 3. EPHESIANS 4:1-2          | 18. ISAIAH 26:3          |
| 4. COLOSSIANS 3:12-14       | 19. EPHESIANS 4:31-32    |
| 5. EPHESIANS 4:23-29        | 20. COLOSSIANS 3:2       |
| 6. PHILIPPIANS 4:8          | 21. PSALM 34:13          |
| 7. ROMANS 12:2              | 22. 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13  |
| 8. PSALM 119:10-11          | 23. EPHESIANS 3:20       |
| 9. GALATIANS 5:22-23,26     | 24. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11 |
| 10. TITUS 3:2               | 25. PSALM 28:7           |
| 11. EPHESIANS 5:15-16       | 26. 2 TIMOTHY 2:22       |
| 12. PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7       | 27. COLOSSIANS 4:5-6     |
| 13. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:15-18 | 28. JAMES 1:19           |
| 14. COLOSSIANS 1:9-12       | 29. 1 JOHN 2:15          |
| 15. PSALM 19:14             | 30. ROMANS 12:9-15       |



## Prayers for the Community & Beyond

We are starting a brand-new feature in the Newsletter, providing several specific ways that you could be in prayer during the month. We encourage you to take note of these and pray regularly for them all month long. If you have items that you think should be added for next month, please let the main office know!

### Close-by...

- Prayer for those impacted by Helene (locally, along the coast, and in the mountains). The losses are staggering and reconstruction will be lengthy. Let us pray for discernment on how Union might be able to help in the weeks and months to come.
- Let us pray specifically for these communities near our church: Eagles Walk, Fox Trot, and Kinmere. Let us pray for the families in these neighborhoods: that they may have Christ as their foundation, for their safety, and that they might "flourish." Let us also pray that Christians in these neighborhoods might partner together and reach out with Christ to their neighbors. Let us pray for receptive hearts to the Gospel and that local churches (including Union) might be places where individuals in these neighborhoods can grow deeply in faith.

### ...& Beyond

- For next month's U.S. election. For safety & for the Lord's help in discernment as Christians vote on those who will lead our communities and nation.
- For the ever increasing conflict in and around Israel. Prayer for peace and for safe borders.
- Prayer for tangible results to be felt throughout the world after the 4th Lausanne Conference in Korea this September. This mission conference focused on best practices and strategies in evangelism work and what a church's call of following Jesus' Great Commission might look like. Some of the local Christians doing missionary work in India and Pakistan (connected to Frontier Fellowship) were in attendance. Prayers that the conference helped unite global missionaries, strengthened and renewed them in Christ, and sent them refreshed to do God's work.



# October

## NEWSLETTER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b><u>Sundays</u></b> <b>9 AM</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10 AM</b>		<b>1 10 AM</b> Bible Study <b>7 PM</b> Building and Grounds	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Chicken &amp;</b> <b>Dumplings</b> <b>5:30-7PM</b>
<b>6</b> <b>2:30 PM</b> SOC	<b>7 11 AM</b> Golden Girls <b>6 PM</b> YTF <b>7 PM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>8</b>  <b>10 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>6 PM</b> Women's Council	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>8 AM</b> MOC  <b>2:30 PM</b> W&S	<b>14</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Book Chicks <b>7 PM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>15</b> <b>10 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>16</b> <b>No Happy</b> <b>Years this</b> <b>month!</b>	<b>17</b> <b>3 PM</b> Bingo  <b>8 PM</b> FF Prayer Zoom call	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>8 AM</b> Church Workday
<b>20</b>  <b>11 AM</b> Union Ensemble  <b>2:30 PM</b> Session Meeting	<b>21</b>  <b>7 PM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>22</b>  <b>10 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>23</b>   <b>7 PM</b> Prayer Walk	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>5 PM</b> Youth Meet to Set up for Carnival	<b>26</b>  <b>FALL</b> <b>CARNIVAL</b> <b>&amp; TRUNK</b> <b>OR TREAT</b> <b>6-8 PM</b>
<b>27</b>  <b>11 AM</b> Prayer after Worship	<b>28</b>  <b>7 PM</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>29</b>  <b>10 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

## Union Presbyterian Church

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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 5  
October 6  
October 13  
October 26

Chicken n' Dumpling Dinner  
World Communion Sunday  
Service Sunday  
Fall Carnival