



Dear Members and Friends of Union Presbyterian Church,

Considering what month this is, I guess it isn't surprising that I have been thinking a bit about zombies recently. I'm not really a fan of horror (I steer pretty far away from scary movies and books). But I wonder if there is a really important lesson that followers of Christ today can learn from zombies (just so you know...if you really don't want to learn anything more about zombies just skip the next paragraph).

Zombies have been an interesting addition to the horror genre. Most horror movies include some sort of "monster." Often that monster symbolizes some greater threat to society that the director wants to comment on. This is true with zombie movies and tv shows. Often with a single bite, a zombie can change a normal person into one of their own. Zombie-ism looks very similar in society to a contagion or a virus that makes normal men and women become part of a mindless mob with one goal... usually eating brains. But this often leads the heroes in a zombie show with a huge moral dilemma. Is it ethically okay to kill a zombie? If they are simply suffering from some sort of virus... is it okay to kill someone who might one day be cured? But if the heroes do nothing, the zombie "virus" will continue to spread until only zombies are left. It is a real quandary. By trying to stop the zombie apocalypse, the heroes often risk losing the very humanity that they are trying to save.

In the book anthology, *The Undead and Theology*, edited by Kim Paffenroth and John W. Morehead, Ashley John Moyses writes about how "The Walking Dead" television show explores what it means to find hope in the midst of despair. Moyses argues that throughout the show (and in a whole lot of other zombie movies too)... there is a strong current of nihilism. It is easy to lose hope or wonder why even keep doing good when everything you hold dear is slowly eroding away. Isn't that similar to our lives as well? Moyses writes that when our world seems "stripped of any meaning and tradition, or normalcy and value" often all that is left for people is the feeling of despair. Moyses believes that it is easy for people in these moments to "cling to death" or even "hug despair." And the more you and I "hug despair" the harder it is to rid it from our lives. It gets wrapped all up and around us (a little like a zombie virus).

I'll be honest that with zombie-ism being described this way, the last few years I've sometimes wondered if you and I are living through our own version of a zombie movie. We've got a global virus that has at least temporarily transformed the world from the way we knew it. We seem to have a growing political partisan divide in our country and a social media presence that (for all the good it does) seems to simultaneously isolate some in unhealthy ways, help form dangerous groups with others, and allows everyone to find opinions that "prove" that they were right about everything and everyone else is stupid. I've found myself surprised over and over again as I've watched groups of people come together for what seems to be the main purpose of attacking others. Is our country growing nihilistic? Are we watching our culture become stripped of meaning, tradition, normalcy, and value? Are we becoming filled with despair?

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October Elders

Jennifer Nelson
Carol Beasley
Claire Cabral

Chicken 'N Dumplings

October 9

Service Sunday

October 10

Church Office Closed

October 11-15

Session

October 17

Carnival & Trunk or Treat

October 30

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I believe that as followers of Christ, we hold the antidote to this potential “apocalypse;” a way to combat the despair we see around us and the despair we maybe even feel in ourselves. BECAUSE THERE IS HOPE IN CHRIST. Christ can reorient us from a place where we are clinging to death and getting rooted into grieving what has been lost and bring us to a place where we can focus on the coming Kingdom of God instead. I think Deitrich Bonhoeffer puts it best in his poem, “Who am I?” (a poem he wrote shortly before his execution in a Nazi prison). Is Bonhoeffer the strong, kind, and charismatic leader that his prison mates see, is he the struggling broken man he sometimes see’s himself as, or is he both? What is his value to the world? Does he matter? I think often we can wonder the same thing. What is our value to the world? Do we matter? Maybe in the end, the only value that truly matters is how we are valued by God. Isn’t it enough for us, like Bonhoeffer, to be able to say, "Whoever I am, Thou Knows, O God, I am thine."

Who Am I? by Deitrich Bonhoeffer

Who am I? They often tell me
I stepped from my cells confinement
Calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
Like a Squire from his country house.

Who am I? They often tell me
I used to speak to my warders
Freely and friendly and clearly,
As though it were mine to command.

Who am I? They also tell me
I bore the days of misfortune
Equably, smilingly, proudly,
like one accustomed to win.

Am I then really that which other men tell of?
Or am I only what I myself know of myself?
Restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,
Struggling for breath, as though hands were
compressing my throat,
Yearning for colors, for flowers, for the voices of
birds,
Thirsting for words of kindness, for neighborliness,
Tossing in expectations of great events,
Powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite
distance,
Wearry and empty at praying, at thinking, at making,
Faint, and ready to say farewell to it all.

Who am I? This or the Other?
Am I one person today and tomorrow another?
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
And before myself a contemptible woebegone
weakling?
Or is something within me still like a beaten army
Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.
Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am thine!

Sincerely In Christ,
Pastor James



Worship for October

New Lectionary Series: Hebrews- Jesus is Greater

October 3: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12, "Jesus is Greater... Seeing Sovereignty"

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

October 10: Hebrews 4:12-16, "Jesus is Greater... Sharp Swords and Big Band-aids"

-Service Sunday

October 17: Hebrews 5:1-10, "Jesus is Greater... Close But No Cigar"

October 24: Hebrews 7:23-28, "Jesus is Greater... Once for All"

October 31: Hebrews 9:11-15, "Jesus is Greater... Redemption that Cuts Both Ways"

November 7: Hebrews 9:23-28, "Jesus is Greater... No More Crosses"

-All Saint's Day Sunday



The Columbarium has arrived!

On Wednesday, September 29, Union's new columbarium arrived. Union is truly blessed to have received this special gift and it is amazing to think how it will become a special place to celebrate the lives of members of this church for generations! If you have any questions about the columbarium or would like information on how to buy a niche, please contact a member of the Cemetery Committee: Billy Jones, Kathy Kytyle, Glenn Sparrow, Brice Thompson, Jr., and Billy Wilson. We invite you to take some time to come see it.



Union's Walking Trail & Benches



On Saturday, September 18 a group of men, women and children met together to build benches to use on our walking trails of brush. What wonderful time of fellowship and what incredible results! We want to especially thank Larry Meek who led this project, came up with the design, pre-cut all the materials, served as carpentry teacher for the morning, and offered his shop.

W&S will begin mapping out the locations for these benches selecting from the names many of you suggested to help name the stops, so that our walking trails will have places for people to rest, reflect, study, and pray.

THANK YOU!



Thank you so much for your love and support during this time in my life of both the joy of our wedding and the sorrow of my brother Ron's unexpected death only a few hours before our ceremony. This has been a very difficult time in my life but Scripture reminds me that the joy of the Lord is my strength. Larry and I thank you for your prayers and encouragement and for your many kindnesses as we begin our new lives together.

With love, Janice Currence Meek

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank you all for the calls, prayers, thoughts, meals, gifts and visitations while I was in the hospital and rehab at Brian Center. Kelly and I both appreciate all your kindness, and we are blessed to be a part of this family.

Susan & Kelly Digh

Dear Congregation of Union Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of school supplies. Your support makes a tremendous difference in the lives of children in our community.

Sincerely Laura Clark, Principal of W.A. Bess Elementary

To Our Church Family,

The Helms Family wishes to express how grateful we are to have you in our lives. JW's health continues to waver. As hard as this is, your prayers, phone calls, visits & meals have eased some stress. Thank you for all your support.

God bless you all, The Helms Family

October News



Women of the Church

Do you know about Tamar, one of Jesus Grandmother's? She has a rather interesting story to share!

Come join us for an evening of fireside, fun, food, and Tamar!

Who: Calling all Ladies, their daughters, friends etc.

What: Tailgating with Tamar

Where: The Lower 40 (behind the fellowship hall)

When: **Monday, October 4th, 6:45 PM**

If you do not drive at night, uneasy about entering your home alone, looking for some fun and fellowship and a little Tamar, we have it all! Please RSVP to Tammy Biddix or Lisa Lawson. We want to be sure that we have enough food and prizes! Bring a chair and a throw! There may be a chill in the air!

Yard Sale

You may begin bringing any items you would like to donate for the Youth Yard Sale, but the actual sale is being rescheduled for later this Fall. In connection, Building & Grounds will be cleaning out the Youth Building and garage. If you have stored any items in those areas, please contact Charlie Nelson and let him know.



Service Sunday

Sunday, October 10, our worship service will begin at **9 AM**, after which we will go out to serve the community. Please note that there will be **no Sunday School** on that day. There are sign up sheets for service projects on the table in the Rotunda. We hope you will join us as we take God's love to the community

World Communion Sunday

Please note that the Lord's Supper will be included as part of worship on **October 3**. This is World Communion Sunday, when we remember how through Christ the church throughout the world can join together in the Eucharist (Thanksgiving) feast.

Church Office Closed

The week of **October 11 - 15** the church office will be closed. Nancy will be on vacation that week.

Men's Retreat

If you are interested in joining the Men of the Church on the beach trip, **October 22** through **October 24**, please notify Billy Jordan or Pastor James. So that reservations can be made. There will be hotel style rooms to allow for social distancing.

Carnival & Trunk or Treat



Carnival & Trick or Treat

On **Saturday, October 30** there will be a Fall Carnival & Trunk or Treat event outside here at the church. The Youth are hosting this event and they will be creating new games. So come on out, bring your family and neighbors and let's celebrate this beautiful season of the year.

To Encourage Mariah

Mariah Patterson has joined the Air Force and is in basic training. If you would like to send a card of encouragement or appreciation for her service, (**please no packages with food of any kind**), please address your correspondence as follows:

AB Patterson, Mariah,
320 TRS/Dorm 4A1 FLT 794
1320 Truemper St. Unit 364030

Birthdays



	<u>August</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$18,084	\$171,754
Expenses	<u>19,430</u>	<u>175,325</u>
	-1,346	-3,571

Monthly Budget Requirements \$18,958

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.



October 3

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

October 25

Fairview
P.O. Box 2460
Lenoir, NC 28645
fairviewpresby@bellsouth.net

October 10

Ellenboro
P.O. Box 189
Ellenboro, NC 28040

October 31

Fletcher
P.O. Box 493
Newland, NC 28657
fairviewpresby@bellsouth.net

October 17

Etowah
P.O. Box 384
Etowah, NC 28729



October



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Each Sunday 9AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship					1 B & G Work Day	2
3 WORLD COMMUNION 11 AM Men's Planning 2:30 PM SOC	4 11 AM Golden Girls (Rita Jumper) 6:45 PM Tailgating with Tamar	5 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM B & G	6	7 6 PM C & T	8	9 5 - 7 PM Chicken 'N Dumplings Dinner
10 NO SS 9 AM Worship Service Service Sunday 1 PM W & C	11	12 10 AM Bible Study	13	14	15	16
	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NANCY ON VACATION					
17 2:30 PM Session	18	19 10 AM Bible Study	20	21	22	23
					MEN'S RETREAT	
24 MEN'S RETREAT	25	26 10 AM Bible Study	27	28	29	30 Carnival & Trunk or Treat
31						

Union Presbyterian Church

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Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 8
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

World Communion Sunday- October 3
Service Sunday- October 10
Carnival/Trunk or Treat - October 30
Dedication Sunday - November 14