



Dear Friends and Members of Union Presbyterian Church,

My whole life, I've loved to be out and about in bare feet: on the beach, in the house, in the backyard. Whenever the terrain, appropriateness, and weather allow it, I want my feet free of shoes and socks. In Junior High, I saw advertised a new "sandal" (if you could call it that) "from Australia" (or so they said) that I just had to run out and get. It was the flat bottom of a sandal, like a flip flop without the strap. One side of the flat surface was covered with a sticky Wearing it was like being in bare feet all the time. The sandals only had one problem.... the sticky side. When we walk, our whole foot is not always touching every part of the sole of the shoe and the ground is covered with rocks and sand and dirt and stuff. So my sandals got absolutely disgusting every time I wore them. They stuck to my feet fine... but a whole lot of other things stuck to them as well.

For my entire life as a Christian, parts of the church have been involved in a music war. It is a war that has pitted hymns against praise songs, organs against pianos, older generations against newer generations, dated songs that use words that no one uses anymore against new songs that use the same few words over and over and over again. I believe that most of this worship music war is due to the fact that music is catchy. We all get stuck to certain songs (much like I was stuck to those "Australian sandals"). I bet the stickiness of songs have made all of us are guilty of thinking or saying one of these things at least once in lifetimes:

- "No one makes hymns like these anymore." This phrase assumes that there are not still people out there writing hymns (not just praise songs) today. What we actually mean when we say this is that no one is currently writing THESE hymns anymore (the hymns we are stuck on).
- "What terrible worship this Sunday. We didn't sing any songs I knew." Christian worship has been around a very long time. There are thousands upon thousands of songs. What we often actually mean by is that we didn't get to hear a song we are stuck on this week.
- "I just didn't feel anything in the worship this week." Often, what we are actually saying here is that in worship this week we didn't sing any songs we are stuck on. The songs were ones we haven't heard enough or heard too many times...
- "I like praise songs best, they are just so much more catchy." This is like saying, "I like songs that I can get stuck to easy, isn't that the most important part of a worship song?"

I love Chris Anderson's book, "Theology That Sticks: The Life-Changing Power of Exceptional Hymns." Anderson accepts the fact that we are all stuck on music. He admits that he loves a huge variety of music himself... all kinds of worship music, and other kinds of music also (both old and new). In "Theology That Sticks," Anderson seems far less concerned about worship wars and the fact that we all are stuck to our own favorite songs, than he is about the other stuff that is stuck to those songs we love (much like all the dirt and gunk that got stuck to the "Australian sandals" that were stuck on me).

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March Elders

Jason Morrison
Eddie Moton
Frank Suggs

Stated Session

March 19

**Lawn Mower Blade
Sharpening Event**

March 11

Pancake Supper

March 17

Lenten Lunch

March 22

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Anderson writes that there are thousands of songs available to churches. Every time an individual or church decides to use a certain song to worship God we are saying no to tons of others. For this reason, he argues that we should pick good ones. Not stuff with a bunch of dirt on it. We should all be less worried about what songs we are stuck to and more worried about what is sticky to us with the songs we sing. Every time we sing a worship song, it is like reciting a statement of faith. We are not only telling those around us what we believe in that song but we are also reciting for ourselves what we believe.

Anderson holds that while we all want to sing songs that are unifying, inspiring, and touching... if one of our favorites also has a line that is Biblically questionable or confusing, why not sing one of the hundreds of other similarly unifying, inspiring, and touching songs instead? Instead of focusing on what songs we are stuck to, what if we all focused more on what is getting stuck to us when we sing them?

Anderson writes about one time he took a tour with a group of pastors to Northern Israel. While down in a bunker, hearing about the Six-Day War, one of pastors suggested that they all sing the first verse of "A Mighty Fortress in Our God" (they were in a refuge after all). But this is a TERRIBLE song to sing only verse 1 of. In that first verse we sing about how Satan's power is great and how no one on earth is his equal. It is only while singing verse 2 that we sing about how much greater Jesus is than that. If anybody heard that group of pastors and did not know the rest of that song, I wonder what they would have learned about God that day.

This Lent, I've decided to take a closer look at the music I worship with... I'm going to try and catch myself before I say, "no one makes songs like this anymore," and "I didn't feel anything from worship this week." Maybe I can even stop looking so intently on which songs I'm stuck on and more on what is getting stuck on me.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor James



WORSHIP IN MARCH

During the season of Lent we will be exploring how God provides for us when we are in spiritual wildernesses. Each week we invite you to listen to our church members talk about how they have experienced God's provision in the Psalms we are using for the Call to Worship. Recordings of what they share will be on our webpage and on Facebook to listen to again. After Worship, we also invite you to share praises each week on how God continues to provide for you! These praises will get attached to the tree in our prayer garden all of Lent!

Lenten Sermon Series: Provision when Be-Wildered

- March 5: Exodus 16: 1-11, "Grumbling Leads To Stumbling"
-2nd Sunday of Lent; Celebration of the Lord's Supper
- March 12: Genesis 21: 8-19, "When all That's Left is Tears"
-3rd Sunday of Lent
- March 19: 1 Kings 17: 1-16, "What will You Share? (For a Gift without a Giver is Bare)"
-4th Sunday of Lent
- March 26: 1 Samuel 25: 2-3 14-31, "Haste & Waste"
-5th Sunday of Lent
- April 2: Mark 15: 16-34, "Looking for the Miracle in Front of You"
-Palm Sunday; Celebration of the Lord's Supper



AN EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

- **BRINGING DISASTER RELIEF**
- **GIVING ESSENTIAL CARE**
- **SPREADING THE GOSPEL**

GOOD NEWS RISING SPECIAL OFFERING

For many years, Union's largest and most important offering has been collected on Easter Sunday. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering supports mission work through the world. This year, while the name of our special offering might have changed... you'll find much about the offering is pretty similar. This year's special offering will still (1) be collected on Easter Sunday, (2) be all about mission, (3) involve mission work in the U.S. & throughout the world, (4) and help 3 different missions!

We are calling this offering "Good News Rising," because in the same way Easter is a time we remember, with joy, the new life found in our risen Lord, we hope that this offering can also help bring the Good News of Christ and new life to people throughout the World!

- 1/3 of the offering this year will go to **World Renew Disaster Response Service**
- 1/3 will go thru the **Medical Benevolence Foundation** to support the work at **Nkhoma Mission Hospital**
- 1/3 will go to **Frontier Fellowship** to support local ministries in one specific region of the world.

We hope you will be able to give generously this Easter!

RECIPIENTS OF THE OFFERING

In the 3 weeks leading up to Easter we will spend time in worship highlighting 1 of each of the 3 organizations supported this year.

- **World Renew Disaster Response Service:** For over 50 years DRS has coordinated with national & international partners to help individuals & communities recover after hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, wildfires, and other natural disasters. DRS has helped over 175, 000 individuals rebuild their homes & lives.
- **Nkhoma Mission Hospital** is a 290 bed hospital that sees over 53,000 outpatients, admits over 19,000 people, does over 3,000 operations, and delivers over 3,000 babies each year. It also supports 19 rural health centers and is in the process of building a new Surgical building. This surgical center would make Nkhoma hospital the 3rd or 4th hospital in the entire country of Malawi with an ICU. **The Medical Benevolence Foundation** is dedicated to building long-term partnerships to help local churches meet their community's healthcare needs and share the Good News of Christ.
- **Frontier Fellowship:** Did you know that 2 of the world's 8 billion people have never heard about Jesus? Frontier Fellowship partners with local ministries in Africa, the Middle East, Central and East Asia, and Southeast Asia to help unreached communities hear the Good News of Christ often for the first time.



BC Flood Disaster Relief





Blessing Box Month



We are declaring March as Blessing Box Month. These events will take place:

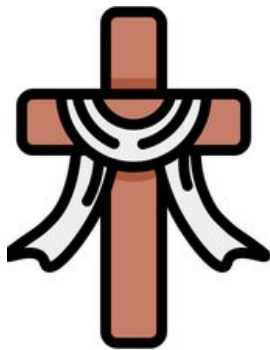
- Our 5 Cents a Meal offering on **Sunday, March 5** will go to supplying the Blessing Box.
- On **Sunday, March 5**, after the worship service, we invite you to a luncheon of fried chicken, slaw, potato salad, rolls and desserts. Donations will go to help purchase items for the Blessing Box.
- During the month of March, a food collection competition will be held. The competition will be between the men, women and children/youth. There will be containers in the Rotunda labeled for each group.

Here are some suggested items we are collecting:

- * Soup & crackers
- * Canned meats (Spam, Treet, Vienna Sausages, etc)
- * Canned vegetables
- * Fruit cups
- * Pop tarts
- * Granola bars
- * Organic milk in small containers (found at Walmart & some Food Lions)
- * Cereal (grits, individual breakfast cereals, oatmeal.

Let's make this a month of blessing others while filling the Blessing Box!

LENT IS HERE



**EASTER IS
COMING!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
HOLY WEEK EVENTS**

Sunday, April 2

10 AM Psalm Sunday Service

Friday, April 7

Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 8

10 AM Easter Egg Hunt

4 PM Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 9

7 AM Sunrise Service

8 AM Breakfast

10 AM Celebration of the Resurrection



UNION NEW & EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY AVAILABLE

In 2023 we hope that you want to grow closer to God by studying His Word. In February we had Bible guides for the Gospel of John. Now we have available for you the second 1/2 of John. We invite you to take more time each week to really study Scripture. If you are unable to get a paper copy you can go online to get the same resources and even more:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/john/>.

COMMUNION

Come join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper on **March 5**.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's Council will meet on **Sunday, March 5 at 8:30 AM**.

The Ladies Circles meet on **Monday, March 6**. Ladies, if you are not involved in one of our circles, please come and enjoy good fellowship and Bible study. We have both a morning and evening circle for your convenience:

- The Golden Girls Circle will meet at **11:AM** at the home of Martha Simmons, 728 Green Pond Road in Clover. Looking forward to a wonderful time of Bible Study, business meeting and lunch together.
- The Soul Sisters will meet at **7 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

LAWN MOWER BLADE SHARPENING EVENT

Its that time of year where our grass is growing and we start mowing! On **Saturday, March 11** from **9 AM - 12 PM**, we will offer free lawn mower blade sharpening so bring out your mower or just the blades and get them ready for spring & summer mowing! Please use the enclosed flyer to let others know .

HAPPY YEARS

The Women of the Church would like to invite you to Happy Years fellowship on **Wednesday March 15** at **noon**. WOC is hosting a wonderful meal and a drawing for some door prizes. The menu is: Company Chicken, rice, green beans, sweet potato casserole, slaw, rolls, tea and desserts! You don't want to miss out on this yummy meal and a chance at some door prizes. Please join us no matter what age you are. The food is good and the fellowship is great!

BINGO AT TERRACE RIDGE

We will play Bingo with the resident of Terrace Ridge on **Thursday, March 16** from **3:30 - 4:30 PM**. Volunteers are needed so we invite you to come out if you are able and help us bless these residents.

PANCAKE SUPPER

The Men of the Church are hosting a Pancake Supper on Friday, March 17 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors. You can use the enclosed flyer to encourage your friends and neighbors to come. All donations for the supper will go to support the ministry of the MOC.

LENTEN LUNCH

We are inviting you and our community to a Lenten Lunch on **Wednesday, March 22** from **11 AM** until **1 PM** as a way to say "thank you" for all the local businesses in the community. Please use the enclosed flyer to invite a neighbor or friend.



FINANCIAL NEWS
January 31 2023

	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	12,858	\$12,858
Expenses	15,436	15,436
	2,578	-2,578

Thank you for your prayers and support for 2022. Please continue to pray for your leaders as we begin 2023.

Jason Morrison - Receiving Treasurer
Martha Simmons - Disbursing Treasurer

PRESBYTERY PRAYER CONCERNS

- ◆ Casey Newton, from Hagerstown, MD, daughter of Beth (Presbytery's Associate Presbyter for Youth) and Bruce Gunn, is recovering in the Neuro Critical Care Unit at John's Hopkins Hospital from a subarachnoid bleed.
- ◆ Prayers are also requested for Julie Lehman, wife of Rev. Michael Poulos, following open heart surgery on Tuesday, February 14, to remove a large tumor in her heart. The surgery was very successful, the tumor is very likely to be benign, and Julie is doing well. .
- ◆ Remember the family of Rev, Dr, Charles Davenport who passed away unexpectedly. He was a former Presbytery Associate with PWNC serving churches in the Gastonia area for many years, as well as pastoring several of our congregations. He was currently on staff as the Minister of Visitation at FPC Gastonia.

Warren Wilson
CPO 6355
P.O. Box 9000,
Asheville, NC 28815

Waynesville First
305 North Main Street
Waynesville, NC 28786

Wee Kirk
P.O. Box 702
Linville, NC 28646

West Asheville
690 Haywood Road
Asheville, NC 28806



I want to thank everyone for all your thoughts, prayers, phone calls, delicious meals, visits, cards and flowers during this challenging time. My family and I have truly appreciated all the wonderful blessings.

We have felt so much love from our amazing church family. We love each and everyone of you.

Love, Twilah & Family

March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Sunday 9AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship</p>	<p>Sunday 4 PM Kids of the Kingdom & Youth</p>		1	2	3	4
<p>5 8:30 AM WOC Council Communion Blessing Box Luncheon 11 AM MOC 2:30 PM SOC</p>	<p>6 11AM Golden Girls (Martha Simmons) 7 PM Soul Sisters</p>	<p>7 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM B & G</p>	8	<p>9 6:30 PM C & T Zoom</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9 AM to 12 PM Lawnmower Blade Sharpening Event </p>
<p>12 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 11 AM W & C 2:30 PM W & S</p>	13	<p>14 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>15 12 PM Happy Years hosted by WOC</p>	<p>16 3:30 PM Bingo at Terrace Ridge</p>	<p>17 5:30 to 7:30 PM Pancake Supper hosted by MOC </p>	18
<p>19 2:30 PM Session</p>	20	<p>21 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>22 11 AM to 1 PM Lenten Lunch</p>	23	24	25
26	27	<p>28 10 AM Bible Study</p>	29	30	31	

Union Presbyterian Church

5615 Union Road
Gastonia, NC 28056
Phone: 704-864-7681
E-mail:
unionpc5615@gmail.com
www.unionpresbyterianchurch.com

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

March 11	Lawnmower Blade Sharpening Event
March 17	Men's Pancake Supper
March 22	Lenten Lunch
April 7	Good Friday Service
April 8	Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Vigil
April 9	Sunrise Service/Breakfast Resurrection Celebration