



Dear Friends and Members of Union Presbyterian Church,

In our denomination, we have 2 unique books to help guide our churches: *The Book of Order* and *The Book of Confession*. The second book (and more important of the two), *The Book of Confessions*, serves to help us better understand the Bible. The 12 Creeds, Confessions, and Catechisms in *The Book of Confessions* provide a Scriptural framework to help us worship, defend our faith, and teach others in a Godly way. *The Book of Confession* doesn't replace the Bible, it just provides a sort of "road map" to help point us in the right direction as we continue to grow in understanding what God wants from us thru Scripture.

In *The Book of Confessions* there are 3 Catechisms: "The Heidelberg Catechism," "The Westminster Shorter Catechism," and "The Westminster Larger Catechism." Catechisms are a way that the church has historically taught the faith to new believers.

They consist of a series of short questions and answers. Donald Van Dyken in *Rediscovering Catechism: The Art of Equipping Covenant Children*, writes that learning about faith through a catechism is sort of like being a submarine equipped with sonar, we "...send out questions and listen for the echoes [that] help fix our depth of knowledge and understanding." The oldest Christian Catechism that has been found by archeologists is *The Didache*. It dates back to 65- 80 AD! Catechisms have been with the church for a VERY long time!!



Our Strengthening of the Church Committee believes that Christian Education is a pivotal part of the church. The committee has been concerned about how we might "do" this sort of education in light of the strange times we are currently in. Many in our congregation continue to worry about having our adults and children in tight spaces like our Sunday School Classrooms this Fall. How can we even have a program like "Kingdom Kids" if our youngest kids can't run around and "be kids" with each other? As Strengthening of the Church has wrestled with this, they've decided to be guided by the history of the church. In light of everything going on why not turn to our catechisms?

Starting Sunday, September 13, Union Church will begin a Christian Education program for **all ages** called, "**Westminster Catechism 4 Everyone.**" The program will begin **outside at 4:30 pm** at the cement pad next to the youth building (it may move inside to the fellowship hall as the weather changes). Participants will be invited to come and congregate as families or in "Covid-19 friendly groups" as each week we explore one question and answer from **The Westminster Shorter Catechism.**

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Worship for September New Program Start	2
Worship Inside Restart Pandemic Project	3
Box of Blessing	4
Union News	5
Celebrations Financial Report Presbytery Prayer	6
Church Calendar	7

September Elders

Jason Cabe
Sue Lewis
Junior Thompson

Westminster Catechism 4 Everyone

September 13

One Great Hour of Sharing

September 20 & 27

Stated Session

September 20

(continued from page 1)

Dyken in *Rediscovering Catechism* uses a great analogy that compares a catechism to a map. Most people could get by without a map. We could all just individually map everywhere we go by ourselves. But if that were the case each of us would only ever know a tiny fraction of the surface area of the world we live in. Our study of the Bible is exactly the same. Without a “map,” we’ll never experience the fullness of faith described through Scripture. During our catechism program here at Union we will be providing our children and those newer to faith a general “road map” for understanding God, the Bible, and their faith. Our youngest will have an opportunity to memorize some important “Bible road signs” and get a better picture of the “topography” of Christianity as they are asked and answer questions about these basic aspects of faith. My guess is that all of us might learn something new as we glance at this Catechism roadmap signs. Then as our children color, draw, and work on other things connected to that day’s question, the adults of our church will spend some time taking that week’s question of faith and digging into it deeper (using the catechism “map” to truly explore some of the places it can lead).

We invite you, regardless of your family situation or walk with God, to join us starting September 13 at 4:30 pm as we explore the Westminster Shorter Catechism, Scripture, and our faith!

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor James

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

New Lectionary Series from Matthew: It’s Not About You

September 6; Matthew 18:15-20, “Justice... It’s Not About You”

-Labor Day Weekend

September 13; Matthew 18: 21-35, “Forgiveness... It’s Not About You”

-“Westminster Catechism 4 Everyone;” Kick-off Sunday- 4:30 pm

September 20; Matthew 20:1-16, “Salvation... It’s Not About You”

-One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Collection Week 1

September 27; Matthew 21:23-32, “Authority... It’s Not About You”

-One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Collection Week 2

NEW PROGRAM: WESTMINSTER CATECHISM 4 EVERYONE

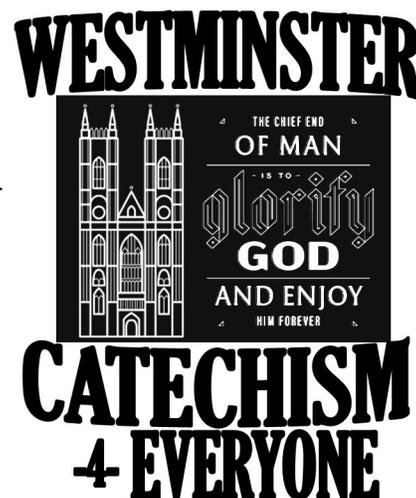
This brand-new Christian Education Program is for everyone! In leu of Sunday School this Fall, join us for a Christian Education experience designed for people of **ALL AGES** and **ALL PLACES** in their walk of faith! We will be exploring a question from the **Westminster Shorter Catechism each Sunday at 4:30 pm** out by the cement pad next to the youth building. Don’t forget to bring a chair!

Children will have the opportunity to:

- (1) Win prizes as they memorize portions of the Catechism
- (2) Answer age appropriate questions about the basics of who God is and what Christian faith looks like.
- (3) Listen to adults around them dig deeper into Scripture as they color, draw, and do other activities related to that week’s Catechism question

Adults will have the opportunity to:

- (1) Get a quick refresher on the basic foundations that a walk with Christ looks like.
- (2) Help mold the next generation of our church, by sharing what they know about God, Scripture, and faith.
- (3) Take time with other adults to study more deeply some of the challenges of living a life of faith as described in the Westminster Shorter Catechism. For example, if the chief purpose of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy him forever, then...
 - Can doing everyday things (like washing the car) glorify God?
 - Will the worship we do Sunday morning glorify God if it isn’t 100% sincere?
 - Can we make other’s aware that we are glorifying God?
 - Should we even be making other’s aware that we are glorifying God or is that a private thing?



INSIDE WORSHIP RESTART....?

We continue to move closer to worshipping inside here at Union. At the August Session Meeting, the Session unanimously decided to allow indoor worship to begin at Union Church if Covid-19 numbers remain on the decline after the first few weeks of public school. Our clerk and pastor are monitoring our county's numbers carefully, so please keep an ear out. The week if/when we are able to start worshipping inside again we will let everyone know via post-card, phone tree, our Remind app, on our website, and by Facebook. When we return to inside worship there will be 3 different ways you could worship with us:

- 1) From home online using our interactive bulletin
- 2) Outdoor Worship Service at 9:00 am
- 3) Indoor Worship Service (with masks/ social distancing) at 11:00 am



PANDEMIC PROJECT

Join us in leaving a record for future generations of how our faith in God sustained us through the coronavirus pandemic. To participate, write no more than 4 sentences of how your life has been affected and include a picture of yourself and family. You may email this information with a picture, bring it by the church and put in lock box at the entrance to the Children's Wing (pictures will be returned) or text it to 704.915.8960 (Tim Grigg's cell) We are here at the church office to help you if you need someone to take a photo of you or if you need help in sending a photo. This project will become a part of the records of the church to help future generations should they encounter such a time as this. Please call the church office for any additional information/help you need. Here are a couple of examples:



I love having people in my home, eating together, praying together, doing Bible studies and playing Phase 10, so the hardest part of the coronavirus pandemic for me was being isolated from family and friends. Technology is a blessing in many ways, but it cannot replace the face-to-face meetings with those I love. The blessing I found in the pandemic was more quiet time to meet with God and study His Word. He has taught me that He is enough –when all else is quarantined, cancelled or falls away, God is enough. Nancy Newman

Fortunately, Covid-19 has really only impacted my family in terms of what we can and can't do. This summer there were no visits to family in Washington State, my Sabbatical was canceled, none of my family are super excited about school being in-person only twice a week, I've missed worshipping inside (though thankful to be worshipping outside this summer), not being able to physically visit any of our church's shut-ins has been super discouraging, I've come to despise online Zoom meetings, and I REALLY miss hanging out in restaurants while working on sermons and Bible studies. But for me the silver lining in all this has been having a constant reminder that none of us are actually EVER in total control of our lives (we just try to fool ourselves that we are). It might actually be a blessing to have all this time to practice not doing what I want when I want to, taking more time to listen to God, and trying to follow God's time table instead of my own. Pastor James



Box of Blessing

Check out the Box of Blessing at Stephen's Stump. We are providing this community resource for those in need. We pray that they will feel the love of God through this simple outreach. This box is being stocked with school supplies, snacks and non-perishable items. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please check out our website for a list of items needed and place any items you purchase in the red barrel at the main entrance. Also, we are looking for individuals to help restock the box (check on the box once a week, and restock from the church if needed). If you are interested, please contact the church office, Pastor James, Tammy Biddix, or Jason Morrison. A special thanks to Kelly Digh for the plans for the box, Jim Dotson for building it and to the men who put it up.



BOX OF BLESSING

SCHOOL SUPPLIES	SNACKS	NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR FAMILIES
#2 wood pencils (no lead or mechanical)	Fruit roll-ups/gummy fruit snacks	Instant oatmeal/pouches
Yellow highlighters	Crackers/single serving sizes	Instant grits/pouches
Washable markers	Juice boxes/single serving sizes	Nutella or peanut butter
Child safety scissors	Chewy Granola bars	Crackers/saltine, Ritz, Townhouse
Jumbo glue sticks	Nutri-Grain bars	Beans & Weenies
Pencil cap erasers (bulk)	Tuna in a pouch	Spam
1 ½" 3-ring binders	Chips/single serving sizes	Tuna/cans or pouches
Bottles/pump hand sanitizer (60+ alcohol)	Cup of noodles	Chicken/cans or pouches
Bottles of hand soap (to use with water)	Water/smallest bottles	Dried/canned beans
Colored pencils (24 colors)	Cookies/single serving size	Canned vegetables
Individual pencil sharpeners	Toaster pastries	Dried/canned fruits
Single subject notebooks (college rule)	Cereal/single serving	Rice/box, pouch or bag
Loose leaf notebook paper (college rule)		Jars of gravy sauce
Pens (black or blue ink only)		Jars of spaghetti sauce
Graph paper		Meal kits/tuna, hamburger, chicken helper
		Box of Mac & Cheese
		Hygiene/toothpaste, deodorant, soap

Note: When purchasing these items, please remember that our space is limited within the box.

UNION NEWS

One Great Hour of Sharing

We have included in this newsletter a special offering envelope for One Great Hour of Sharing, the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. We will be receiving this offering on **Sundays, September 20 and September 27**. There are several ways to participate in this ministry if you desire to do so: you may bring the included envelope with you on one of these Sundays, you may drop off your offering in the black locked box at the entrance to the Children's wing, or you may also mail your offering to the church. We also have the One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks available at church so that our children can participate as well! We all participate in this important offering in order to join with others to fulfill the Word of God, *"You shall be called repairers of the breach."* Isaiah 58.

Election of 2023 Elders

Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer for our church members and regular attenders of Union Presbyterian Church to help our Nominating Committee this year. Please prayerfully consider the biblical qualifications and constitutional requirements for those who might serve our church as elders. If you wish to give the Nominating Committee some names of potential elders to consider, please fill out the form. You can drop it in the black lock box at the entrance to the Children's Wing or bring to worship and place in the designated box before or after the service. Your names need to be received before the next Nominating Committee meeting (September 13, 12:30 PM).

Choir Rehearsal

On Wednesday, September 9 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall, choir rehearsal will resume. On this first meeting, the choir will be discussing how it might wish to continue, how the choir can prepare music for the upcoming Christmas season, and ways the choir might practice, prepare, and perform music safely.

Movie Night

On August 28, Union had an outdoor movie night watching "The One and Only Ivan." Friends gathered on the church lawn and had a wonderful evening together (the movie finished and was cleaned up right before a thunder storm blew through). A big thank you to Tim Grigg for organizing this event. And thanks to the many MANY other hands who stepped up to help make this such a great event!

School Tools Collection

Thank you to all who participated in blessing the school children of our community. You have done a great job in donating items so that each child could have their own. The love of God is evident through your giving: Notebook paper-103 pkgs, #2 Wooden Pencils-120 pkgs, Scissors-34 pkgs, Colored Pencils-59 pkgs, Highlighters-22 pkges, Colored Markers- 33 pkges, Individual Pencil Sharpeners-43 Composition Notebooks-159, Pencil Pouches-36, Crayons-160 boxes, Glue Sticks-72 pkgs, Pencil Cap/Bar Erasers 45 pkges, Hand Sanitizers-8, Liquid Soap-1, 3-Ring Notebooks-46



Stephen's Stump Trail Project

After worship on August 30, 10-12 individuals met to begin discussing the Stephen's Stump Trail Project. Work is underway! During the month of September we have a team trying to find the corners of the woods behind the cemetery, others beginning to draw a map of where the trail should go, and others looking into whether there are any county codes that we need to be aware of. After these first steps are accomplished, the group plans to get back together to begin planning the details of putting the walking trail into motion. If you are interested in getting involved in this project, we encourage you to contact Tammy Biddix or Jason Morrison (elders on the Witness and Service Committee).



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!



**FINANCIAL REPORT
July 2020**

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$15,575	\$127,070
Expenses	<u>13,939</u>	<u>124,185</u>
	+1,636	+ 2,885

Monthly Budget Requirements \$19,124

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 Billy Wilson, Treasurer.



Happy Anniversary

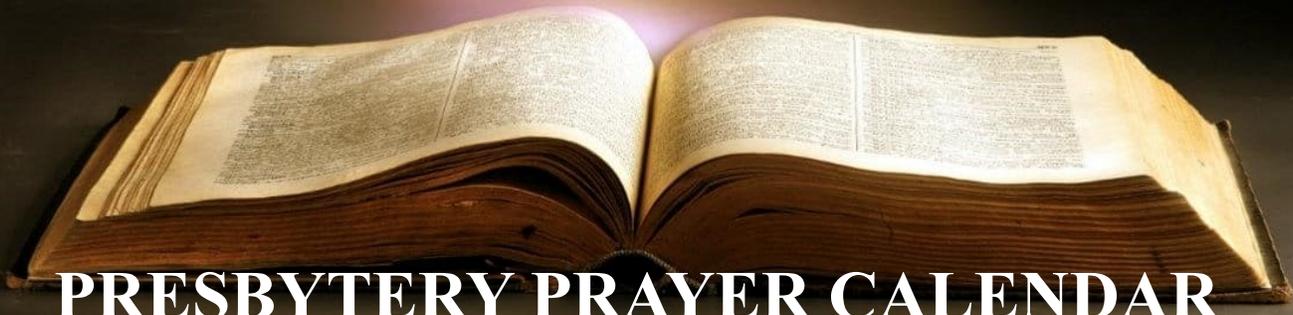


September 6
Dallas First
412 West Trade Street
Dallas, NC 28034
ncgreene@bellsouth.net

September 13
Dixon
602 Dixon School Road
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
rearrollp@yahoo.com

September 20
Dorland Memorial
P.O. Box 307
Hot Springs, NC 28743

September 27
Dulatown
P. O. Box 982
Lenoir, NC 28645
dulatownpchurch@att.net



PRESBYTERY PRAYER CALENDAR



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Each Sunday 9 AM Worship 4:30 PM Sunday School</p>		<p>1 No B & G Committee Meeting</p>	2	3	4	5
<p>6 2:30 PM SOC</p>	<p>7 </p>	<p>8 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM C & T (Zoom)</p>	<p>9 7 PM Choir Rehearsal resumes in the Fellowship Hall</p>	10	11	12
<p>13 W & S Immediately after service 2:30 PM W & S 4:30 PM Westminster Catechism 4 Everyone</p>	14	<p>15 10 AM Bible Study</p>	16	17	18	19
<p>20 One Great Hour of Sharing 2:30 PM Session 4:30 PM WC4E</p>	21	<p>22 10 AM Bible Study</p>	23	24	25	26
<p>27 One Great Hour of Sharing 4:30 PM WC4E</p>	28	<p>29 10 AM Bible Study</p>	30			

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

Sherry Maples
Music Director/Accompanist

Nancy Newman
Administrative Assistant

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

SAVE THE DATES

September 20 & 27	One Great Hour of Sharing
December 13 & 20	Outdoor Nativity
December 24	Christmas Eve Service