

Dear Friends and Members of Union Presbyterian Church,

Do you remember your “first days of school” while growing up? I can no longer remember the details but I can remember how the days always made me feel. It’s a little easier to remember when it is so easy to see some of the same feelings on the faces of my kids. For me there was always a sense of excitement. I would never admit it to anyone growing up (especially my parents), but I loved the first day. I loved the new clothes and school supplies, the ability to see friends I hadn’t seen all summer, and who knew what was in store in the new classes that year. Some years that first day feeling of excitement was very short lived. But every September sort of felt like a do-over or fresh start!

Looking back on it, I realize that what I was feeling was hope... true hope. I believe hope is based on 2 things: assuredness of one’s future, and the ability to see possibility in one’s present. I am sure there are many students out there who lack that “first day of school” hopefulness this year. Students who have lost the belief that their school days will ultimately be okay. The number of new pencils and new teachers doesn’t help them much. You need to have assuredness for the future and see the possibility in one’s present to have hope,

In his book, “Futureville: Discover Your Purpose for Today by Reimagining Tomorrow,” Skye Jethani writes about Christian hope. He states, “Consider a billboard erected recently by a Chicago law firm. It simply said, ‘Life’s Short. Get a Divorce.’ Buried in the message is a belief about the future: death is final. And there is no hope beyond the present life. This view of tomorrow will determine how one lives today: maximize your pleasure, and abandon the spouse who may be inhibiting it... The choices we make, the values that guide us, the work we pursue and the people we become are all shaped by the way we think about the future.” But Jethani goes on to argue that this is not all that effects hope. He says, “In the case of my [younger] generation the inverse is also true: our experience in the present shapes our outlook on the future. For me and many of my peers. Broken homes, dysfunctional communities, and television-saturated childhoods have given us a cynical outlook. We grew up with parents, commercials, and political leaders feeding us empty promises that never came true.” For hope to really take root in our lives... we need hope in tomorrow and hope in the possibility for today.

Through Christ, there is the possibility of always having hope. We can look at our world and see the brokenness, the loss, and the hurting. We can see the danger, the fighting, the lack of security, and it can all look concerning. But then we can also look to our future in Christ and say... that ultimately we are safe... that everything is going to be alright. Through Christ, we are children of God, redeemed by him, and our future is destined with him in heaven. The future is bright.

However, for hope to really fill our lives we also need to always be able to see God’s possibilities in our present as well. Our negative views on the present can quickly poison our hope in a future in Christ. In another of his books, “The Voting Booth,” Jethani writes about Simon of Cyrene, the guy who ended up carrying Jesus’ cross. Jethani writes that Simon was a bystander who “...did not want to carry that cross.

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Elders for September

Jason Cabe
Don Chilton
Junior Thompson

Communion
September 1

Sisters of Strength
September 7

Stated Session
September 15

Fall Retreat
September 21—22

Faith & Healing Service
September 29

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He was forced to do it by the [Roman] soldiers against his will.” He was given a terrible job. He could have finished up, gone home, and spent his future days complaining to his family and friends about how unfair Rome is. The event also could have scarred him. Technically Simon was forced to play a role in the murder of an innocent man. It’s even worse to dwell on the real truth that he helped kill God... But Christian tradition tells us a very different story. It says that Simon and his family actually became followers of Christ and were part of the early church.

When we look at the world around us we can complain and lament and despair over how the world has changed, how it is different, how it is confusing and even how it is scary sometimes. We can rail at the way culture is broken and work tirelessly to try and change it until we are dried and worn out. But neither of those solutions will lead us to hope. The only other choice is to be like Simon of Cyrene. To remember that God is in control, that we have been put here in this time and place for a reason, that life will not always be easy or make sense or be comfortable. But if we open our eyes we can see that God is still at work all around us even when life is grey, foreboding, and stormy. And scripture promises that in the end things will be very good. That is hope in Christ!

Looking at this month’s newsletter I can’t help but feel a little like Simon of Cyrene. Look at what God is doing around us and through Union! Read about what is going on in Malawi... with the women and men of Union church... at the new programs starting up... with the steps our church is taking with our church’s new vision statement... with good-solid ministries starting up again this Fall and new ministries appearing. The world might a scary broken place. But God is at work and in the end everything is going to be okay! And that is something we can be hopeful about!

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor James Holeman

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

During the month of September we will be finishing up a sermon series, looking at some of the unique ways Jesus glorified God while on earth while challenging us to glorify God with all of who we are. At the end of the month we will begin a new series that looks at 2 entire books of the Bible: Philemon and 3rd John. In both letters: the author “pushes” the recipients of the letter to love more like Christ. The letters might also “push” each of us to love in some new ways.

Continued Series: Glorifying God: “MY” Way or “MI” Way

September 1- Matthew 7:13-27- The Naturalist Way: Is the Narrow way TOO Narrow?

Celebration of Lord’s Supper; Labor Day Weekend

September 8- Luke 18:18-30- The Existential Way: Isn’t Jesus asking for Too Much?

September 15- John 7:53-8:11- The Mathematical Way: What was Jesus Writing?

New Sermon Series: “Pushing” People toward Christ-like Love

September 22- Philemon- Pushing Philemon

Weekend of Fall Retreat

September 29- 3rd John- Pushing Gaius

New Lectionary Series: 2nd Timothy- Unhitching the Gospel

October 6- 2 Timothy 1:1-14- Rekindling the Gift

World Communion Sunday; Celebration of the Lord’s Supper



MALAWI UPDATE

When Barbara Naggy needed to step down from serving as a missionary to Nkhoma, our Witness and Service committee had to figure out how we would continue to support overseas mission. For many years, Malawi has been the primary way Union has reached out with God’s love beyond our borders. But what was Union going to do now that there wasn’t a dedicated missionary for us to support?

Ultimately, W&S decided to support Malawi through the Presbytery Building Hope Campaign. This provides an extra safety net to help make sure the money our church designates gets to where it needs to go. But as W&S wrestled with what to do, we continued designating money for Barbara Naggy (to ensure that she had all that she needed as she transitioned back to the states). Recently we were told that \$5000 of that money we had sent had not been spent.

Since this money was designated to help with the mission work in Nkhoma, it has been agreed that these funds will be used in 2 ways:

-First, \$3000 of the funds will be added to the \$500 we already sent to replace and repair the roof of the building used for seminary housing (housing future Presbyterian Malawian pastors while they receive seminary education). This will make the housing available for the Seminary to use again.

-Second, \$2000 of the funds will be used by Ebenezer School. A new “class block” has just been built (adding 3 new classrooms). The classrooms will slowly be phased into use with the first being used this September. The \$2000 will be used to completely furnish this classroom with 30 desks and chairs, a teachers desk and cupboard, cubbies, a black board and other odds and ends (please see the pictures below to see the room, an example of a desk, and a picture of the cubbies).

It’s exciting to see God at work isn’t it!



UNION’S CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

DATE	NURSERY	CHILDREN’S CHURCH
September 1	Sara Elliott & Mickie Nelson	Shelly Grigg & Amanda Viola
September 8	Jan Painter & Amanda Viola	Leslie Harris & Kimberly Morrison
September 15	Vicky Holeman & Sue Lewis	Eric & Jennifer Nelson
September 22	Tammy Biddix & Kimberly Morrison	Kim Chilton & Vicky Holeman
September 29	Melody Caldwell & Sue Lewis	Jason & Jenny Cabe



- **Backpack Program**

A Backpack project is being undertaken by the men to provide food over the weekends for children who may not have food to eat at home. The men pick up the food from the Backpack Program warehouse and bring it to the church to pack it for the children of Bess Elementary School. This will begin on September 18. If you want to help fill bags, please see Billy Jordan.

- **FFF (Faithful Fellowship with Food)**

The Men of the Church will be providing a wonderful luncheon of chicken & dumplings on Sunday, October 13 after the worship service. We are hoping for help from all the men!

- **Men's Fall Retreat**

The Men Planning Committee is discussing a Fall Retreat for men on November 15—17, possibly at the beach (more details to follow.) Men, please get this date on your calendar!

Ladies of all ages are invited to attend an un-Bee-lievable event on Saturday, September 7 at 10 AM. There will be good food, lots of laughter, great fellowship and door prizes. Please RSVP to Tammy Biddix or Lisa Lawson). See the insert enclosed in the newsletter.



Fall Festival Raffle

We are looking for volunteers to make baskets for a Fall Festival Raffle. This will be for the Black Mountain Home for Children Festival. The Festival is October 12 from 10 AM—3 PM at the children's home. Most of our congregation has been there. Baskets can be left on the table in the Men's Sunday School room, upstairs in the main hall. We will need the baskets no later than Monday, September 30. They will be delivered on Thursday, October 3 or Friday, October 4.

If you are interested, you can also volunteer at the Black Mountain Home for Children Fall Festival. They are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please call or email the home.



LOTS OF FUN THINGS TO DO, SEE & HEAR

- Silent Auction
- BBQ & Fun Foods
- Inflatables & Games
- Car Show
- Live music with The Agee Family
- Pumpkin Patch by The Rock Church
- Ridin' on Faith Ministries Horse Show



UNION'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING

Committee Minute

During the worship service each month, we will take a few minutes for a committee of our church to share the exciting things happening in the committee. On September 8, Witness and Service Committee will be sharing.

Kids of the Kingdom & Union Youth

Our young people will begin meeting again at 4 PM on Sunday, September 8.

Children's Sunday School Class (Ages PreK—5th Grade)

The new rotation begins September 8. We will be learning and exploring Joseph, "Living in a Land of Many Colors." Please join us for lots of fun as we study and learn about God's Word.

Building Repairs.

Do you see something that needs to be fixed? There is a blue folder in the cubby between the church office and the Rotunda. Please fill out a repair request for a repair/need you have noticed. Please place the form back in the blue folder when you note the need. Sometimes it may take 1—2 months for the repair to take place. **In the case of an emergency need**, please contact Eric Nelson or Jason Cabe.

Baby Shower

Friends and family of Rainey Perry (Jan Painter's granddaughter) are sponsoring a baby shower on Sunday, September 15 at 2 PM. You are all invited to come and help us bless Rainey and the new baby boy.

Christmas Shoebox Project

We will have September and October to fill our boxes and return them to the church. J.W. Helms is leading this project for Witness & Service. A flyer of suggested items is enclosed. Let's all bless someone this Christmas.

Blast From the Past

We invite you to look for pictures from "yesteryear" to include in our power point presentation before worship service and on Union's Face Book page. If you have any pictures you would like to submit for use, please email them to the church (unionpc5615@gmail.com) or bring them by and we will scan them. Be sure to include what year and who is included in the pictures. What a fun way to honor the saints who have come before us!

Fall Retreat—September 21—22

On Sunday, September 22 there will be no Sunday School for all ages. Our worship service here will begin at 11 AM and one will be held at South Mountain Christian Camp. If you are interested in going to the retreat, please contact the church office to see if there are any registrations available.

David Jeremiah Tickets

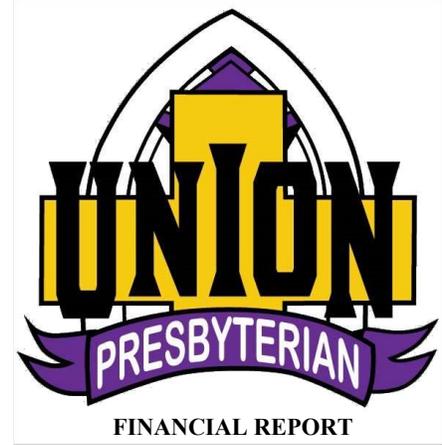
Twenty (20) FREE tickets are available to David Jeremiah in Charlotte on Sunday, October 6 at 7 PM. If you are interested in going, please see J. W. Helms and sign up for a ticket to go.

Remind App

We are starting to send out texts and emails regarding prayer concerns and church calendar information. Please contact the office with a cell number and/or email if you are interested and let us know if you want to receive stuff regarding prayer concerns, church calendar information or both. There will also be a sign up sheet in the bulletin in the month of September.

Faith & Healing Service

Join us following worship on September 29 for an opportunity to receive prayers of healing or strength for difficult decisions that you or someone you care about may be facing. Included in our prayer time will be an opportunity to pray over "prayer blankets." These will be available in a basket in the prayer room for anyone to take to give to a friend/family who is in need of encouragement. There will be a sign up sheet for the name of the person/family receiving the blanket so we do not duplicate sending blankets to the same person/family.

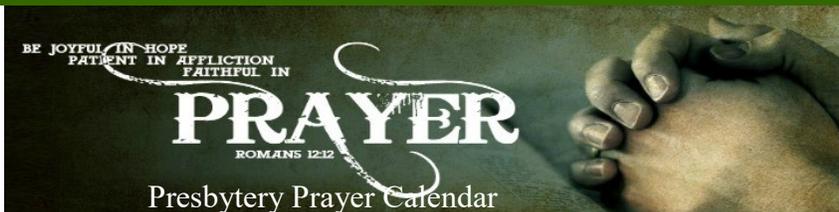


July 31, 2019

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$16,388	\$114,443
Expenses	<u>17,913</u>	<u>117,841</u>
	- 1,525	- 3,398

Monthly Budget Requirements \$18,601

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.



September 1
 Dallas First
 412 West Trade Street
 Dallas, NC 28034
 ncgreene@bellsouth.net

September 8
 Dixon
 602 Dixon School Road
 kings Mountain, NC 28086
 rcarrollp@yahoo.com

September 15
 Dorland Memorial
 P.O. Box 307
 Hot Springs, NC 28743

September 22
 Dulatown
 P.O. Box 982
 Lenoir NC 28645
 dulatownchurch@att.net

September 29
 Duncan's Creek
 C/O Joe Brooks
 P.O. Box 568
 Bostic, NC 28018



Hello!
September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion 2:30 PM SOC	2 	3 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM C & T 7 PM B & G	4 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7 10 AM LADIES EVENT
8 9 AM W & C Committee Minute 2:30 PM W & S	9 1 PM Golden Girls	10 10 AM Bible Study	11 5:30 PM Finance Committee 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14
15 2 PM Baby Shower 2:30 PM Stated Session	16	17 10 AM Bible Study	18 12 PM Happy Years 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 4 PM Bingo Terrace Ridge	20	<div style="background-color: orange; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Church Fall Retreat </div>
22 (No SS) 11 AM Worship <div style="background-color: orange; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Church Fall Retreat </div>	23	24 10 AM Bible Study	25 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28
29 8:30 AM MOC Faith & Healing Service	30			<u>Each Sunday</u> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship		<u>Each Sunday</u> 4 PM Kids of the Kingdom & Union Youth

Union Presbyterian Church

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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 21—22	Church Retreat
October 6	Pink Sunday
October 13	Faithful Fellowship with Food
November 15-17	Men's Retreat