

Dear Members and Friends of Union Presbyterian Church,

I have a confession to make. It is really a confession about pastors. Pastors usually are pretty good teachers about all sorts of different aspects of faith and God. But one area of faith that pastors often tend to be a little weaker in, is evangelism. Full time pastors literally spend most of their days with people of faith. In some ways it's even harder for part time pastors (especially those with jobs elsewhere) because they are having to do a more than full time job of a pastor on top of other jobs or responsibilities. It is hard to find time for evangelism.

It's problematic, because if you remember the Great Commission, Jesus calls all who follow him to be his witnesses to the world: showing, telling, and teaching others about Christ. It is an important part of our walk with Christ, and yet it is an area that simply because of the nature of a pastor's jobs, it's something we pastors tend to not be able to model that well to our congregations.

In the book, *Sharing Jesus (without freaking out)*, Alvin L. Reid argues that all of us should be more excited to share Christ now than ever in our lifetimes. Today is the BEST time to be sharing Jesus with others. Why? Because we live in a post-Christian country that looks more like the pre-Christian world of the New Testament than ever before. Many people, literally do not know anything about faith. Like the New Testament church we don't need to be experts in the intricacies of the Bible, we just need to "...engage people in conversations and show them how the whole gospel story relates to their stories, and how God's work in Christ to rescue us is the key, not [the things we do]." We have a great example on how to do this... the entire New Testament!! Reid argues, "What a great time to introduce people to the story that makes sense of this messed-up world."

So why do so many Christians not get as excited as Alvin Reid does when we hear the word "evangelism." Reid has an explanation for that as well. He writes that because the church of the United States has existed so long in a country where it felt evangelism was less necessary, we've all sort of let our evangelism muscles get flabby. But he argues that it is a mistake to just immediately start focusing on how to do evangelism better. Most of us are terrible dieters or exercisers when we just try to do it one day for ourselves. We usually are a little better at it when we are under doctors orders to change our eating habits. In the same way is it possible that the church has not only forgotten the "how" of evangelism but also the "why?"

Reid writes, "I'm afraid a lot of Christians want to learn how to share their faith without really understanding why. Sharing Christ starts with understanding God's grand story. Centering on Christ, it includes his creation of you, how we come to know him and bring him glory. That's the big why."

We don't share Christ to win souls to Christ (the Holy Spirit does that). We don't share Christ to keep God from getting angry with us, or impress others with how much we know about Jesus, or to score points with God.

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#### **Elders for February**

Tammy Biddix  
Kim Lee  
Frank Suggs

#### **Dinner and a Blessing**

February 13

#### **Congregational Meeting**

February 17

#### **Stated Session**

February 17

#### **Kirkin' 'O' The Tartans**

February 24

*(continued from page 1)*

We don't share Christ even because Jesus told us to do it (even though he did). Ultimately, we share Christ because we want to share the joy we experience in Jesus to the world. PERIOD. We look at our lives, we see how God has created us, how Christ interacts with us, how we have come to know God, and it all just makes us really happy! We WANT others to know about it. We share Christ simply because we have incredibly Good News that we can't help but get out! That's the "why" of evangelism! Do you have that sort of joyful Good News trying to get out of you?

During the year of 2018 we have had a team exploring how as a church we might move forward in coming years. The team included Billy Jordan, Eric Nelson, David Lawson, Faye Harrell, Larry Meek, Kathy Kytle, and myself. Union's Mission Statement is "Seeking to Know Christ and Make Christ Known." Looking forward, the team and Session believe we should emphasize 4 new initiatives to make that mission statement more of a reality.

1. Actively share the Good News of Christ to the students of Forrestview High school (making a concerted effort to connect to and share Jesus to these students).
2. Become a church of outward focused groups (using groups within the church to not only grow in fellowship with one another but also as a way to reach out to others).
3. Communicate the Gospel in worship and in the community through a variety of new media platforms (using more technology and social media).
4. Enthusiastically welcome new additions to the community & become a place of Christian hospitality for our region (actively welcoming new people who move into our local neighborhoods and opening the church up to more community use).

It's a pretty cool list isn't it! But did you notice the common thread between all 4 of these items? They are all ways to do evangelism as a church. They are the "hows" of evangelism. But if Reid is correct they will not have much of an impact for our church or our community if we don't get our "whys" in order first! In the coming months we will have an opportunity to hear more in committees, newsletters, online, and in special church meetings about the work of our visioning team. But in the meantime each of us have a job we could do (pastor included). Each of us might need to reflect a little and look deep to find that joy of the Lord that is inside of us. Many of us may need to be reminded why the Good News of the Gospel is so good! Good luck!!

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor James

## **Worship for February**

If we have to be honest most of us enjoy saying the name, "Habakkuk," a lot more than we actually like studying it! Join us during February as we start a new 3 week series looking at the powerful and important questions the prophet Habakkuk asks and God's response to those questions!

February 3-John 1:29-39, "Pictures of Jesus: Lamb,"

Celebration of the Lord's Supper; Elder Ordination & Installation

February 10-John 13:1-17, "Pictures of Jesus: Footwasher"

February 17-Habakkuk 1:1-4; 12-17, "The Questions of Habakkuk: Why?"

Presidents Day Weekend; Congregational Meeting

February 24-Habakkuk 2:1-5, "The Questions of Habakkuk: When?"

Kirkin "O" The Tartans

March 3-Habakkuk 3:1-19, "The Questions of Habakkuk: And Yet!!"

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

# THANK YOU!

**Dear Union,** Just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for allowing me to clean the beautiful buildings here at Union Presbyterian Church. It allows me a special privilege to clean the place to which I come to worship. This gives me an even deeper feeling of commitment to our church. I love to see something that is clean so this job gives me great satisfaction to know I am cleaning the house of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you again and I pray that God may bless this church and all who come to service and worship Him. Sincerely, Jason Morrison

**We wish to thank our church** family and friends for the words of encouragement, prayers, love, and kindness over these last three years. Thank you, Presbyterian Men, for the delicious BBQ meal on Friday night and the Presbyterian Women for the wonderful meal on Saturday. We thank God that we have you in our lives. The Family of G. W. Wilson

**Thank you, friends and family** for the many acts of kindness for David and myself during the year of 2018. I cannot express how much the cards, food, yard work and visits meant to us both. As we face year 2019, we know that with you....we are very blessed, grateful and so loved. Thank you again. Love, The Lawsons

**To my dear, beloved church family,** I wish to express my profound gratitude for the prayers, support, and love extended to me and Marvin through my illness and search for employment. I could not have been able to keep going, take care of my bills, buy medicine, etc., without the collective support of my church. But for the congregational care fund, I'd have been in financial trouble. I also want to thank all of you for the non-monetary gifts; things that helped make the situation a bit easier. From giving Marvin rides and meals to being present for medical appointments and procedures, I've been truly blessed by an incredible group of people who know Christ and make him known through their kindness and beautiful actions. Thank you so much for everything you've done for me and continue to do. I pray that someday, I'll be that blessing to



DATE	NURSERY	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
February 3	Tammy Biddix & Jan Painter	Pam & Eddie Moton
February 10	Vicky Holeman & Amanda Viola	Jenny Cabe & Mickie Nelson
February 17	Mickie Nelson & Patricia Wilson	Jennifer & Eric Nelson
February 24	Sara Elliott & Amanda Viola	Leslie Harris & Sally McGinnis



### **Dinner and a Blessing**

On Wednesday, February 13 at 6 PM we will have a very special Valentine's Dinner and a Blessing. The menu will be spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and desserts with lots of fun after our meal as we play Valentine's games and activities. Please come and join us for a lovely evening!

### **Congregational Meeting**

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17 immediately after worship. There are three reasons for this meeting. It is our annual meeting of the corporation with the Trustees, the 2019 budget and annual report will be presented and there will be an opportunity to vote on changes in the pastor's call. Please join us for this very important meeting.

### **Happy Years**

On Wednesday, February 20 at 12 PM, Happy Years will meeting for a great meal of soup and the fixings plus desserts. The meal is provided and donations accepted. Please join us for good food and fun fellowship, no matter what age you are. Contact Kathy Kytle if you have any questions.

### **Sacrificial Offering**

There is still plenty of time to make a pledge toward our special sacrificial giving offering that will be received on Easter Sunday morning, April 21. (These were the red sacrificial offering cards handed out last November with the 2019 pledge cards.) Pledge cards will be available through the church office and in the church vestibules. Of course, you can contribute to this offering without making a pledge with the assurance of knowing that your gift will be just as useful toward the carrying out of God's work and the financial health of the church.

### **Camp Grier**

Saturday, April 6 is our Camp Grier Workday. Please see Billy Wilson for more information.

### **Pancake Supper**

Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church is hosting a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 5 from 5 PM - 8 PM. The cost is \$5.00 per person and children eat for free.

### **Bingo at Terrace Ridge**

On Thursday, February 21 at 4 PM we will be playing bingo with the residents of Terrace Ridge. This ministry is meant to encourage and bless these men and women. Bingo prizes and volunteers for this ministry are always needed. Please contact Nancy Gardner if you have any questions.

### **Children's Sermons in a Box**

Beginning in the month of February, each Sunday a different child of the church will be invited to take our empty Children's Sermon Box home with them and bring it back the next week with something in it. That item (whatever it is) will be the topic of the following week's Children's Sermon! Please help your children know whether they are allowed to take the box home with them each week and help them remember to bring it back the following week if they are selected!

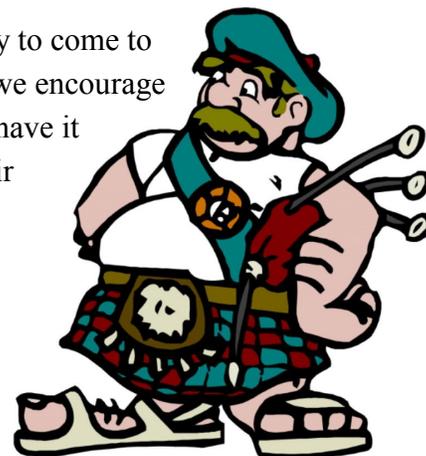
# Kirkin' 'O' the Tartans

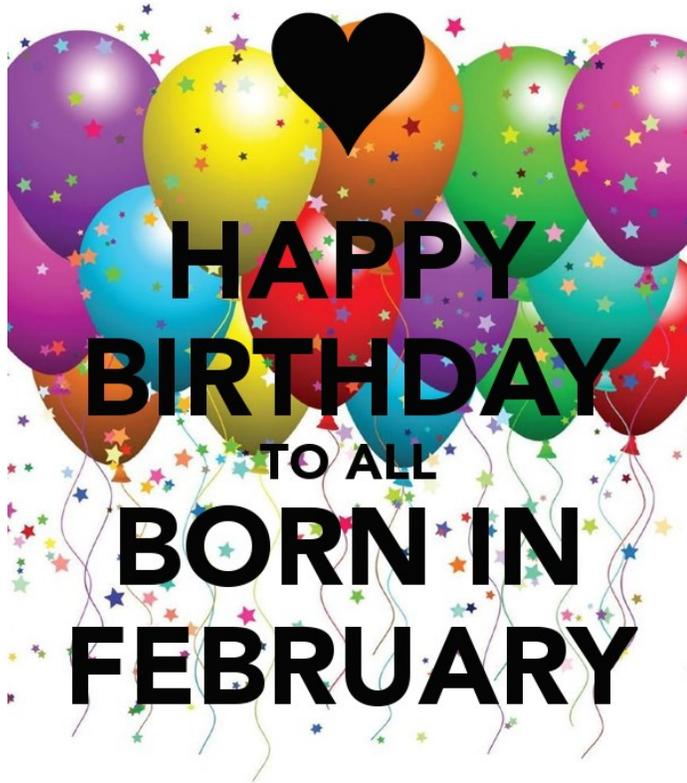
On Sunday, February 24, 2019, our church will be celebrating the Kirkin' O' The Tartans! This special worship service dedicated to the Presbyterian Church's Scottish heritage begins at 11:00 a.m. It's purpose really is to remind us of the "ALONES" of our faith: how our relationship with God is grounded in Scripture ALONE, by faith ALONE by God's grace ALONE through the work of Christ ALONE. This unique event features bagpipes, a procession and blessing of family/clan tartans, Gaelic liturgy, traditional Scottish music and more!

Immediately following the service, enjoy a Scottish-themed pot-luck luncheon, music and presentations of our Scottish heritage. Whether Scottish or not, join the fun and be "Scottish for a Sunday!" You'll enjoy this celebration of heritage and be blessed in Christian fellowship!

Here's how you can help make the Kirkin' happen!

1. Is your family of Scottish Ancestry? Please contact Nancy in our office, and let her know
  - A. Your Scottish family name to print in the bulletin and to be included in the Scottish blessing!
  - B. If you are planning to be part of the processional (entering with other Scottish families at the beginning of worship to bagpipe music). Please remember, the only thing you need to have to be part of the processional is you!
  - C. If you are planning to be part of the processional, do you have a flag that we need to provide a stand for?
  - D. Please let Nancy know if you have a child or youth who wishes to carry one of our processional items during the processional (cross, Scripture, water, sword, etc.)
2. For the fellowship time following worship, the Worship & Commitment Committee is providing a main course, drinks and rolls and ask that you bring the sides and desserts to share.
3. Come dressed to impress! Kirkin' of the Tartan is a wonderful opportunity to come to worship wearing a little plaid. For those of you with a Scottish background, we encourage you to come wearing your family's Tartan. You could wear a kilt, or maybe have it on a tie, scarf, or wrap. Sometimes people will just buy a small square of their Tartan's fabric to display by pinning it on their clothes that day.





**Financial Report  
December 31, 2018**

<u>Date</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to</u>
Revenue	\$44,242	\$239,137
Expenses	<u>26,819</u>	<u>234,448</u>
	17,423	4,689

**Monthly Budget Requirements      \$18,478**

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.

**PRESBYTERY  
PRAYER  
CALENDAR**

**PRAYER  
REQUEST**

February 3      Vians Valley  
P.O. Box 202  
Bakersville, NC 28705

February 10      Waldensian  
109 Main Street East,  
Valdese, NC 28690  
office@waldensianpresbyterian.org

February 17      Walnut  
254 Barnard Road  
Marshall, NC 28753  
genelinton@live.com

February 24      Walnut Grove  
403 Old Three Mile Road  
Newland, NC 28657  
taylor6935@bellsouth.net

# FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
						180 WEEKEND
<b>3</b> 8:30 AM MOC 9 AM WOC <b>COMMUNION</b> Elders Installation/ Ordinations 2:30 PM SOC	<b>4</b> 1 PM Golden Girls 7 PM Betty Kendrick Circle	<b>5</b> 10 AM Bible Study  6 PM C & T 7 PM B & G	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9 AM W & C  2:30 W & S	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10 AM Bible Study	<b>13</b> 5:30 PM Finance 6 PM Dinner and a Blessing (No Choir Rehearsal)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Congregational Meeting  2:30 PM Stated Session	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10 AM Bible Study	<b>20</b> 12 PM Happy Years  7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 4 PM Bingo at Terrace Ridge	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Kirkin 'O' The Tartans	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10 AM Bible Study	<b>27</b> 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b>	<u>Each Sunday</u> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	<u>Each Sunday</u> 4 PM Youth

## Union Presbyterian Church

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[www.unionpresbyterianchurch.com](http://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

February 24	Kirkin "O" the Tartans
March 5	Robinson Memorial Pancake Supper
March 6	Ash Wednesday
March 9	Hunter Safety & Blade Sharpening
March 10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 17	St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
April 6	Camp Grier Workday