

Dear Friends and Members of Union Presbyterian Church,

Have you ever spent time staring up at the sky and imagining what the clouds looked like? I have a very vivid childhood memory of sitting on a bench just off a hiking trail doing this with my Grandfather. It's amazing two people can both look at the same cloud and see completely different things. My Grandfather would tell me what he saw in the cloud and then suddenly the cloud "became" what he said. Then when I told him what I saw the cloud would "transform" for him. Even when we are cloud watching by ourselves, it's surprising how a cloud that looks like a fish can move to a new location in the sky and from that new perspective suddenly look much more like a car. In all of these instances the cloud is always just a cloud, but it still looks different.

Over the last 4 months, there has been a lot of discussion and writing about the Pneumatrix program at the church. Last year, a team from our church met with a consultant for a year to explore a possible direction for Union Church moving forward. In January, Session approved a vision statement from the work of this Pneumatrix team. The vision statement is:

As a church seeking to know Christ and make Christ known Union will:

1. Actively share the Good News of Christ with the students of Forrestview High School
2. Become a church of outward focused Missional Groups
3. Communicate the Gospel in worship and in the community through a variety of media platforms
4. Enthusiastically welcome new additions to the community & be a place of Christian hospitality to our region

Today in our newsletter you can read a little about what the Pneumatrix team imagines this vision might look like for our church for the next 5-7 years. But this is sort of like looking up into the clouds. Sometimes if one person tells another what a cloud looks like, then that other person can have a hard time imagining that cloud as looking like anything else. THIS IS IMPORTANT POINT!!! At the recommendation of the Pneumatrix team, the Session only approved the VISION statement from Pneumatrix not the IMAGINING of what that vision will look like exactly. The vision statement above is like the cloud itself (it likely won't change), but what we make that vision into (how we imagine what that cloud looks like) as a church needs to be adaptable as time, circumstances, and our talents change.

Let me give a quick example. The 4th part of our vision statement is to "enthusiastically welcome new additions to the community and be a place of Christian hospitality to our region." The Pneumatrix team imagined a day in the future when our church was monthly sending out welcome bags for people who move into neighborhoods near the church. We imagined the church becoming a very busy place, where outsiders could easily utilize our facility.

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Elders for May

Jason Cabe
Don Chilton
Junior Thompson

Men of the Church BBQ

May 3

Women of the Church Birthday

May 5

Youth Yard Sale

May 18

Stated Session

May 19

Faith & Healing Service

May 26

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People could be using the church grounds for scouts, and AA meetings, and movie discussion groups. Outsiders might use the building for family reunions or receptions. There could be a babysitters club at the church, Forrestview student groups could meet here and police might train on our campus. You get the idea.

But after a couple of months someone asked, “That sounds great but what about the medical supply program we are already apart of? If we expanded that program wouldn’t that help us be ‘a place of Christian hospitality to our region.’” Well... yes it would. Then David Lawson met some of our local firefighters eating lunch and found out about a program our area fire chaplain had to bring much needed fire gear to Guatemala (a country our Presbytery already has a mission connection with). The chaplain needed a place to store and package the gear before they send it. Would our assistance in this ministry help us “be a place of Christian hospitality to our region.” Well... yes it would. Then Billy Wilson began brainstorming at a Witness and Service meeting about all the new houses that are going to be built down on Union Road. He wondered if maybe as a church we should occasionally bring some hot food to share with construction workers as the homes are being built. Would this be a way for Union to “be a place of Christian hospitality to our region.” Well... yes it would.

It’s just like imagining things as we look at clouds. The vision statement might stay the same (still a cloud), but what it looks like might change as the time goes on and new opportunities fall into our laps. As a church we probably won’t get to everything I mentioned in the previous 2 paragraphs for that part of our vision. But our plan as a church is to move forward making this new vision statement a reality while knowing that what it exactly looks like may adapt as time moves along! What an exciting time to be at Union Church!!

Happy skywatching!

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor James Holeman

Worship for May

The book of Acts can be summarized in a number of ways. It is a book that demonstrates how Jesus’ words in the opening chapter are true (how the Good News of the Gospel spread to Jerusalem, all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth). It is a book that describes the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church. And it gives some incredible examples of times when early followers of Christ expressed their faith in amazing ways. The book of Acts leads to some interesting questions: How can you and I get in on that? How can we be good witnesses for Christ? How can we be better “used” by the Holy Spirit? How can we follow Christ in such a way that others might see God in us more clearly? During the month of May, we invite you to join us in worship as we explore the some of these faith moments in a lectionary series called “Acts: Becoming a Piece of the Puzzle.” Join us as we look at how our faith might look a little bit more like Peter, Ananias, Tabitha, Cornelius and Lydia.

May 5 - Acts 9:10-22, “Acts: Becoming a Piece of the Puzzle- Ananias”

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

May 12 -Acts 9:36-43, “Acts: Becoming a Piece of the Puzzle- Tabitha”

Mother’s Day

May 19 - Acts 11:1-18, “Acts: Becoming a Piece of the Puzzle- Cornelius”

May 26- Acts 16:9-15, “Acts: Becoming a Piece of the Puzzle- Lydia”

Memorial Day Weekend

June 2- Youth Sunday

Ascension Sunday

Following the Spirit

A Vision & A Dream



The vision statement Session has approved based on work from our Pneumatrix team is:

As a church seeking to know Christ and make Christ known Union will:

1. Actively share the Good News of Christ with the students of Forrestview High School
2. Become a church of outward focused Missional Groups
3. Communicate the Gospel in worship and in the community through a variety of media platforms
4. Enthusiastically welcome new additions to the community & be a place of Christian hospitality to our region

In this month's newsletter, we wanted to take a little time to unpack how the Pneumatrix team imagines this vision MIGHT look like for Union church in the next 5-7 years. For more information about how the vision might change as the church tries to live it out, please see the pastor letter at the beginning of this newsletter.

What might it look like if Union Church actively shared the Good News of Christ with the students of Forrestview High School?

The Pneumatrix team imagines a day when Union Church members spend a lot of time with Forrestview students. We imagine a day when we might be an active supporter of the school's Bible club, where part of our work on Service Sunday would be at the school, where we had some presence after football games or graduation. We could imagine ourselves seeking out some of the school groups (maybe a sport team or the band) and provide pizza and a place for those youth to hang out periodically. We imagine using the property next to school in a bunch of different ways: providing donuts and coffee sometimes before school, having hotdogs or s'mores over a campfire after football games, giving out ashes before school on Ash Wednesday, and providing goodies and assistance on National day of Prayer and "See you at the Pole." We imagine a future day when we might build a "to-go coffee stand" on the property and a sheltered location for outdoor seating. We imagine providing training at the church for how members who are a part of these programs might share their faith with these youth in a nonjudgmental and non-confrontational way.

What might it look like if Union Church became a church of outward focused Missional groups?

The Pneumatrix team imagines a day when Union church has many groups. Maybe there's a group that goes out to lunch periodically, or meets at different houses for cookouts, or gets together to do service projects in the community, or reads books or watches movies and then discusses them after, or plays volleyball together. But even though these groups might all have different secondary purposes, their primary purpose would be the same. They will primarily exist to seek out those not part of the group. The "Mission" of each group would be to reach out to others (particularly to those who do not know Christ) with the love of God. Each group leader(s) would receive some training about their group's purpose and who they might be interested in invited into the group. The leaders would be periodically checked in with on how they might need support. The groups themselves would be connected to the church but they wouldn't be "church groups." The goal is for them to be places of fellowship where someone could be and feel connected whether or not they attend Union Sunday Worship or knew other members of the church (outside that group). This would be Union's primary way to attempt to do missional-evangelism in our community.

What might it look like if Union Church communicated the gospel in worship and in the community through a variety of media platforms?

The Pneumatrix team imagines a day when Union church's technology might better communicate to those outside the church that we are looking to the future. We imagine a day when Union is regularly on twitter and/or instagram, when our Facebook page is more interactive, where giving could be done online, where the pastor interacts with the friends of the church regularly through an online avenue, and new pictures from church events are

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always being added online. We imagine a day where projection during worship was used more regularly on a screen that could be seen by the whole congregation, where the sound system was improved so video recordings could better include music during worship, where sermons could be live-streamed, and there would be an online way to interact with the morning’s scripture and sermon.

What might it look like if Union church enthusiastically welcomed new additions to the community & became a place of Christian hospitality to our region?

The Pneumatrix team imagines a day in the future when our church might monthly send out welcome bags for people who moved into neighborhoods near the church. We imagine the church grounds becoming a very busy place, where outsiders could easily utilize our facility. People could use the church grounds for scouts, and AA meetings, and movie discussion groups. Outsiders might use the building for family reunions or receptions. There might be a babysitters club at the church, Forrestview student groups could meet here, and police might periodically train on our campus. We also imagine a day when the entire south end of Gastonia knows about our medical supply “closet,” and people regularly stopped by to drop supplies off or pick something up. We imagining partnering with the library to regularly put on programs, allowing church members to share their talents and gifts with the community.

There you have it! This is some of what the Pneumatrix team imagines COULD happen through the 4 parts of our new vision statement... As you think about the vision, how might you imagine this vision playing out? What might you add? What gets you excited about it!?

You are invited!

You're invited to a Graduation Party celebrating Jordan Jones on Saturday, May 18, 2019 - 5:00-7:00 pm at The Four Leaf 5800 Campbell Road Clover/York, SC 29745.



KIDS MINISTRY

DATE	NURSERY	CHILDREN’S CHURCH
May 5	Melody Caldwell & Sue Lewis	Shelly Grigg & Amanda Viola
May 12	Vicky Holeman & Martha Simmons	Faye Harrell & Kimberly Morrison
May 19	Shelly Grigg & Allison Jones	Jennifer & Eric Nelson
May 26	Sara Elliott & Jan Painter	Kim Chilton & Vicky Holeman

Attention Shoppers!

The Loaves & Fishes Store will have its grand opening May 5, 2019. We will be open for the next 4 straight Sundays and will be offering a variety of goods to support our local Crisis Assistance Ministry. Our hours will be from 9:30 to 9:45 AM and 12 to 12:30 PM. Our Youth look forward to being your personal shoppers.



What's your Favorite Hymn!

What's your favorite hymn? Now is the time to recommend those hymns to Sherry Maples. This is a great opportunity to look at the Glory to God Hymnal and pick out some of your favorites (or even request a song that is not in one of our hymnals)! We will be singing as many of these songs through the summer as we can in worship of our Lord. Sherry is waiting to hear from you!

Graduates

If anyone is graduating high school or college this year, please contact J. Cabe.

Happy Years

Wednesday, May 15, Happy Years will meet at 12 PM. Lunch is provided and donations are accepted. Please join us for good food and great fellowship no matter what age you are. If you have any questions, please see Kathy Kytle.

Bingo at Terrace Ridge

We will be playing bingo with the residents of Terrace Ridge on Thursday, May 16 at 4 PM. Volunteers are needed so please join us. If you have any questions, please see Nancy Gardner.

Youth Yard Sale

Any articles you would like to donate to the Youth Yard sale on May 18 can be stored in the Youth Building. Please talk with Faye Harrell or Tim Grigg if you are interested in leaving an item.

Faith & Healing Prayer Service

Join us immediately following worship on May 26 for our next Faith and Healing Prayer Service. This is an opportunity for you to receive prayers of healing or strength for difficult decisions for you or someone you care about may be facing. Oil will be available for anointing if you so desire.

Joy, Hope, Peace

Thank you, Presbyterian Women of the church for the lovely basket. It was so sweet and thoughtful. I don't know who loved it the most, me or my grandkids. They were so happy to see what their Maw Maw had received. I love you all so much! Kathy Pope

Vacation Bible School



Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 14

Grab your cowboy hat and saddle-up your horse for *Giddyup Junction*, the 2019 VBS. At this wild-western town, kids learn about the good news of God's love-the gospel-going to new frontiers in the book of Acts. Kids will spin lassos, mine for gold, and they'll learn how to respond to God's love taking it to new frontiers today.

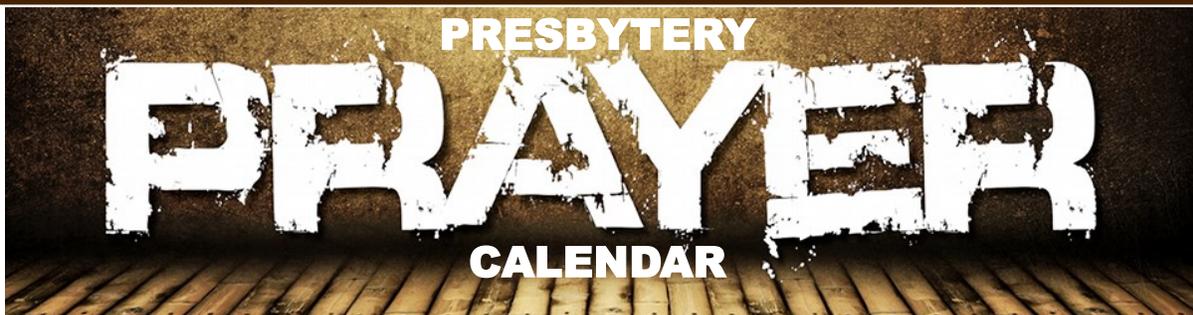


**Financial Report
March 31, 2019**

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$16,349	\$45,120
Expense	<u>16,047</u>	<u>47,343</u>
	302	- 2,223

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.



May 5 Belmont First
P.O. Box 1
Belmont, NC 28012
ssmith@fpc-belmont.org

May 19 Black Mountain
P.O. Box 39
Black Mountain, NC 28711
info@bmpnc.org

May 12 Bessemer City First
P.O. Box 365
Bessemer City, NC 28016

May 26 Brevard Davidson River
249 East Main Street
Brevard, NC 28712
bdrpcdenise@citcom.net



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Each Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship</p>	<p>Each Sunday 4 PM Youth</p>		<p>1 7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 10:30 AM To 8 PM Annual BBQ</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 9 AM WOC COMMUNION 3 - 5 PM Women's Birthday Celebration 2:30 PM SOC</p>	<p>6 1 PM Golden Girls 7 PM Betty Kendrick Circle</p>	<p>7 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM C & T 7 PM B & G</p>	<p>8 7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9 AM W&C 2:30 PM W & S </p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>15 12 PM Happy Days 7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 4 PM Bingo at Terrace Ridge</p>	<p>17 Youth Sleepover</p>	<p>18 Youth Yard Sale</p>
<p>19 2:30 PM Stated Session</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>22 7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:30 AM MOC Faith & Healing Service</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>29 7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p>		

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

June 1	Men of the Church Outing
June 2	Youth Sunday
June 10-14	Vacation Bible School
June 16	Father's Day
July 28	Faithful Fellowship with Food