



Dear Friends and Members of Union Presbyterian Church,

I've become fascinated by historical black and white photos that have been colorized. But by looking at them, I've come to a startling realization. Before these pictures existed I had been unconsciously imagining many events and people of our past as if they ACTUALLY were only black and white. I had sort of been imagining people like Abraham Lincoln, Einstein, and Wild Bill Hickok as not having anything in their wardrobes outside of the colors of white, black, or drab brown.

In the book, *Never Settle: Choices, Chain Reactions, and the Way Out of Luke-warmness*, Greg Holder tries to imagine what seeing the world like a butterfly or a mantis shrimp would be like. Apparently in the same way scientists believe that dogs can't see as vividly as we can (a few shades of blue, green, and a touch of yellow) because their eyes only have 2 color-receptive cones instead of three like us, some butterflies have 5 types of these different color cones and the mantis shrimp has 16. If you could suddenly see the world like a butterfly or shrimp, would it be like going from looking at a black and white photo to a vividly colored one?

Of course, Holder has a good reason for pointing out the different number of eye cones in different creatures. He finds a certain Bible verse very troubling. In Revelation 3:15-16, John writes of a letter Jesus wants sent to the church of Laodicea. Jesus wants that church to know:

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

To the north of Laodicea was the city of Hierapolis known for its hot springs. To the east was Colossae known for its cold refreshing spring water. Laodicea had its water brought in by Roman aqueduct. Records indicate that the water was lukewarm, tasted a little off, and could sometimes make people sick. Holder argues that essentially Jesus is telling the church of Laodicea that their church's inaction is like their water. It makes Jesus want to throw up. Holder believes that you and I have received a startling gift from God. We've received grace. But "when those of us who have been graced with new life refuse to engage a dying world desperate for answers... [it] disturbs Jesus so much that it makes him sick."

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October Elders
Tammy Biddix
Kim Lee
Billy Jordan

Church Office Closed
October 5-October 9

One Day VBS
October 17

Stated Session
October 18

Trunk or Treat
October 30

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Holder believes that our mediocrity, our propensity to settle, and to play it safe should bother us. But he also believes that there is hope for us because God has given us a way to see past our shortcomings and the brokenness of this world. We can begin to understand how God does this by looking at our own lives. We can look at ourselves with our own eyes and see our sin, shame, failures, regrets, and brokenness. The “black and white” truth about who we are. But then with the Holy Spirit’s help we can also see God’s vivid colors of grace all over us too. We can see how we have been forgiven and made whole. How we have been made God’s children and even now because of the Holy Spirit how we are in God’s presence. Buy to truly understand just how amazing this grace is we also need to be able to see what we looked like without it.

The same is true with this world. With our eyes, we need to be able to look around and see the brokenness of sin. We need to see all the injustice, rebellion, volatility, ambiguity, hurting, and pain. But if we only look around and see the world with those eyes, the best we’ll ever do is try to figure out to accept things as they are, learn how to settle, and just try to make it through. But God wants us to use the Holy Spirit to ALSO see his grace in the midst of this broken world. The black and white muted colors of sin will still be there. But with God’s grace there is also the vivid colors of beauty, healing, victory, hope, joy, and love all around us.

Right now with contentious elections on the horizon, continued fighting between experts about Covid-19, a disastrous hurricane season, demonstrations in our cities, wild fires in the west, as well as all the “normal” brokenness that is so easy to see all around us, it’s pretty easy to look with our human eyes and come to the conclusion that this world is pretty depressing and drab. But I don’t want to “settle.” Let’s not just try to figure out how to hunker down and survive it all. Because with the Holy Spirit’s help we can also see God’s grace at work in the midst of all this brokenness. And I don’t know about you, but I want to see that grace!! We also might see the places where we can be used by God to share a little of that grace (God’s hope, his love, his joy) to people around us who truly need it. I don’t want to be lukewarm. Do you?

Sincerely in Christ.
Pastor James



WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER

****New Series: The Old Testament Touchstone: God Saves His People****

October 4; Exodus 3: 1-17, “Only You”

-World Communion Sunday- Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

October 11; Exodus 13:17-22, “You are Not Alone”

October 18; Exodus 16: 2-15, “Miss You Like the Deserts Miss the Rain”

October 25; Exodus 32: 1-14, “Re-Mem-Mem-Remember When”

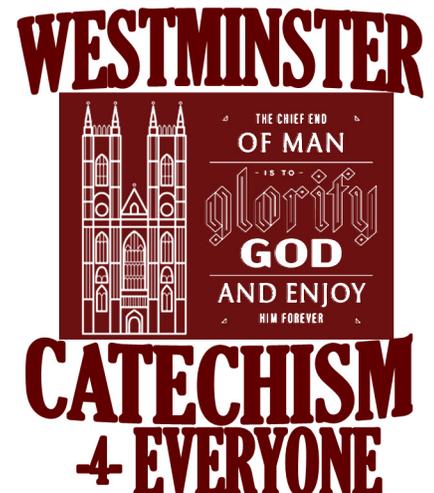
-Reformation Sunday

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 and Youth are encouraged to arrive a little early! At **4:00 pm** they will be checking in and doing some fun yet “appropriately socially distant” activities!

Then they will join with the adults to learn the Catechism, answer questions, and dig in a little deeper to each Q&A with a connected Bible Study!



INSIDE WORSHIP RESTART...?

At the September Session Meeting, the Session decided to have indoor worship begin at Union as soon as the Covid-19 numbers in our region stabilize. We hope this means that an indoor worship service will be starting very soon this October! Our clerk and pastor are monitoring our county's numbers carefully, so please keep an ear out. The week we are able to start worshipping inside again we will let everyone know via postcard, phone tree, the Remind app, on our website, and by Facebook. When we return inside 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



HAVE YOU SUBMITTED TO THE PANDEMIC PROJECT YET?

We are starting to put together the information we have gotten from the congregation for the Pandemic Project. Have you submitting your information yet? Join us in leaving a record for future generations of how our faith in God sustained us through the coronavirus pandemic. All you need to do is to write up a 4 sentence or less description of how your life has been affected and include a picture of yourself and family. You may email this information and 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 Tim Grigg (704.915.8960). It is not too late to participate!!



BOX OF BLESSING



We have placed a Box of Blessing at Stephen's Stump in which we are providing items that can be used by those in need as an outreach of God's love into our community. If you would like to make a donation to this ministry, there are 3 categories of items needed to stock the box: school supplies, snacks, and non-perishable items for families, all in small sizes to accommodate the size of the box.

Thanks to all of you who have brought items to the church, to the Women of the Church for the donation and to SooSoo Wilson, Martha Simmons, Jason & Kim Morrison for volunteering to help us keep the box filled.

We are still in need of a couple more volunteers to help keep the Box of Blessing stocked. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact someone on the Witness and Service Committee, Tammy Biddix or the church office.

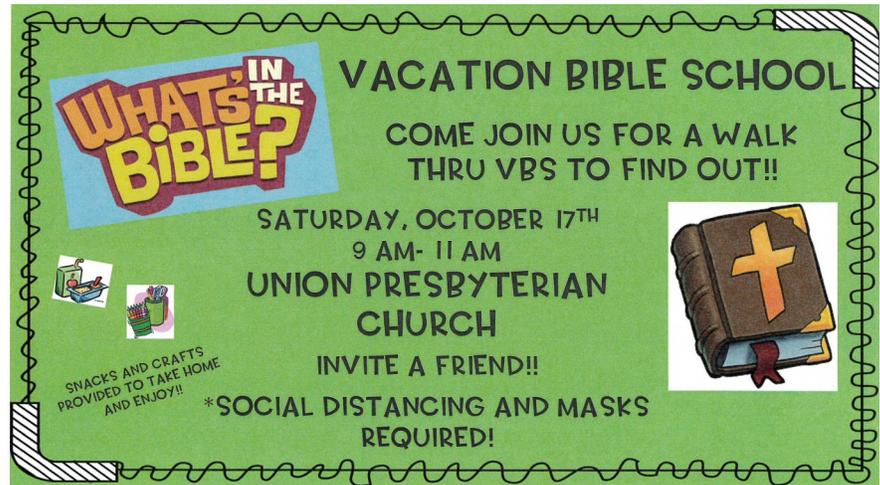
May the Box of Blessing be our Lord's hand reaching out to those who are suffering in these times.

ONE DAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



On **Saturday, October 17**, Union will be hosting a one day Vacation Bible School program from **9 AM-11 AM**. There will be food and fun while doing the very important social distancing/ wearing mask stuff! But most important it will be an opportunity for kids in our community to learn a little more about what is in the Bible! This will be an outdoor event so a rain date will be scheduled if October 17 turns out to be too wet

Volunteers are needed to help make this activity operate smoothly. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jennifer Nelson. We are including a flyer in this newsletter in hope you can use it to invite someone. So come on out, bring friends and family, and lets enjoy this time together!



TRUNK OR TREAT & OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Join us on Friday, October 30, for a great evening of fellowship and fun! We will be joining together to put on a Trunk or Treat for our kids and then watch a movie for all ages under the stars! Although this event will not be advertised as a community event, we encourage our church family to bring their fiends and neighbors. Here's the schedule!!

Friday, Oct. 30-6:00-6:30 pm Set up for Trunk or Treat
6:30-7:30 pm Trunk or Treat Fun
7:45 pm– Family Friendly movie for all ages



There are a couple ways for you to get involved in this event!

#1 WE NEED CARS...

preferably cars with decorated trunks, a couple bags of candy, and people willing to share that candy. If you can fill that need. Please contact Kimberly Morrison!

#2 WE NEED CANDY! If you could drop off a couple bags of candy to the church by morning worship Sunday, October 25 it would be so appreciated! There will be a candy drop off bin at the entrance to the church throughout the month of October!

#3 WE NEED YOU! Come on by!! Enjoy our time together. If the Trunk or Treating scene isn't your thing, join us at 7:45 for the movie!



We hope this Trunk or Treat will be a great time of fun and fellowship!



UNION CHURCH NEWS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all of our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration (1 Corinthians 11:29). On **Sunday, October 4**, we will have a special service in which we will be joining with this “Communion” happening all over the world and highlighting how God is at work all around us. Please join us as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper in the outside worship service with prepackaged communion cups and wafers.

KINDNESS CHALLENGE

We have been challenged by Witness & Service to intentional acts of kindness during these very different and difficult times. Each week has been a specific challenge. The challenge for **October 5—17** is to bring an items for the Box of Blessing so that we might touch someone in need. The challenge for **October 18-31** is to send a card to someone who can’t get out much or someone who may feel “forgotten.” May we be a touch of God’s love reaching into the lives of others!

AND THE WINNER IS.....

Congratulation to Robinson Memorial Presbyterian for winning the School Tools Challenge this August! Between the 3 participating churches, over 4,000 school items were collected. The real winners of this activity were the children at Robinson, New Hope, and Bess schools! Thank you to all who donated so generously.

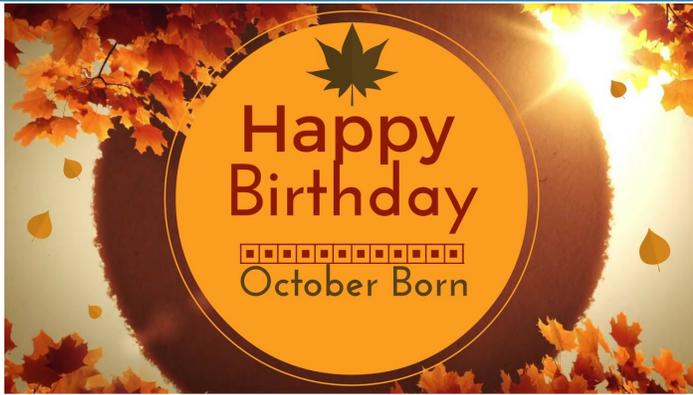
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed **Monday, October 5 through Friday October 9** while Nancy is on vacation. Phone messages will be checked daily.

PASTOR JAMES’ VACATION

Please note, Pastor James and family will be on vacation from October 19 through October 25.





**FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF
AUGUST 31, 2020**

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$10,710	\$137,780
Expenses	<u>14,202</u>	<u>138,386</u>
	-3,492	- 606

Monthly Budget Requirements \$19,124

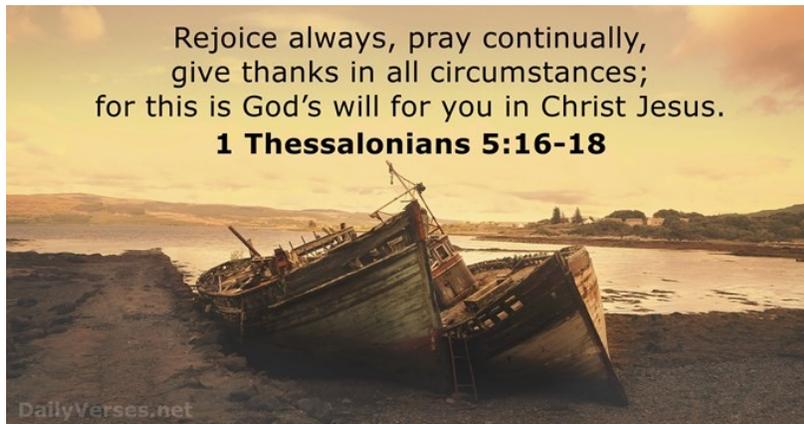
If you have any questions regarding the financial information of the Church, please feel free to contact Martha Simmons, Disbursing Treasurer, or any member of the Finance Committee. Martha is responsible for disbursements only. Questions regarding your financial giving to the Church should be directed to Billy Wilson, Treasurer.



PRESBYTERY PRAYER CALENDAR

October 4
Duncan's Creek
C/O Joe Brooks
P.O. Box 568
Bostic, NC 28018

October 11
Ellenboro
P.O. Box 189
Ellenboro, NC 28040



Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

October 18
Etowah
P.O. Box 384
Etowah, NC 28729

October 25
Fairview
P.O. Box 2460
Lenoir, NC 28645
fairviewpresby@bellsouth.net



OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Each Sunday 9 AM Worship 4 PM Youth & Kids 4:30 PM Sunday School</p>				1	2	3
<p>4 WORLD COMMUNION 4:30 PM Westminster Catechism 4 Everyone</p>	5	<p>6 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM B & G</p>	7	8	9	10
<p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NANCY ON VACATION</p>						
<p>11 W & C Immediately after service 2:30 PM W & S 4:30 PM WC4E</p>	12	<p>13 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM C & T (Zoom)</p>	14	15	16	<p>17 9—11 AM ONE DAY VBS</p>
						
<p>18 2:30 PM Session 4:30 PM WC4E</p>	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>PASTOR ON VACATION</p>						
<p>25 4:30 PM WC4E</p> <p style="background-color: orange; color: white; padding: 2px;">PASTOR ON VACATION</p>	26	<p>27 10 AM Bible Study</p>	28	29	<p>30 TRUNK OR TREAT 6-6:30 PM Setup 6:30-7:30PM Trunk or Treat 7:45- ??? PM Outdoor movie</p>	31

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

October 17	One Day VBS
October 30	Trunk or Treat
December 13	Outdoor Nativity
December 24	Christmas Eve Service