

Dear Union Presbyterian Church Friends and Members,
As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Holy Week and Easter, I think there is something important we can learn from Moses and the burning bush...

Blessing at the Burning Bush
by Jan Richardson

You will have to decide if you want this—
want the blessing that comes to you
on an ordinary day
when you are minding your own path,
bent on the task before you
that you have done a hundred times,
a thousand.

You will have to choose for yourself
whether you will attend to the signs,
whether you will open your eyes
to the searing light, the heat,
whether you will open your ears,
your heart to the voice that knows your name,
that tells you this place where you stand—
this ground so familiar and therefore unregarded—
is, in fact,
holy.

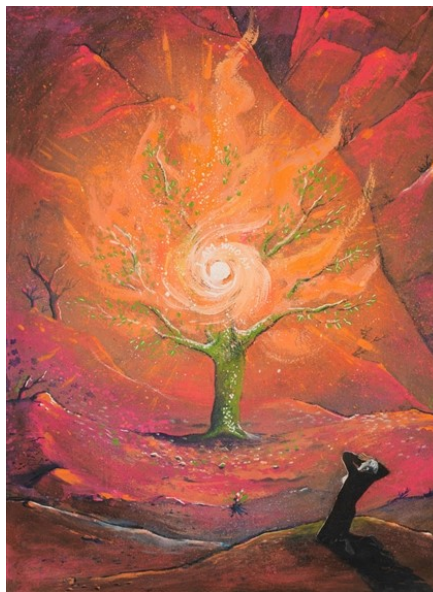
You will have to discern whether you have
defenses enough to rebuff the call,
excuses sufficient to withstand the pull
of what blazes before you;
whether you will hide your face,
will turn away back toward—
what, exactly?

No path from here could ever be ordinary again,
could ever become unstrange to you
whose seeing has been scorched
beyond all salving.

You will know your path
not by how it shines before you
but by how it burns within you,
leaving you whole as you go from here
blazing with your inarticulate,
your inescapable
yes.

May the Lord touch each of our lives deeply during this season of Lent.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor James



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Holy Week	2
Holy Week	3
Cemetery News	4
Church News Worship in March	5
Church Finances Celebrations Presbytery Prayer Calendar	6
Church Calendar	7
Inserts Holy Week God Sightings	

March Elders
Inside

Faye Harrell
Kim Lee
Frank Suggs

Opening & Closing

Charlie Nelson
Glenn Sparrow

All Church Work Day

March 13

Westminster
Catechism

March 14

Session
March 21

Congregational
Meeting & Baptism
March 28



HOLY WEEK

It was just a year ago that COVID-19 began to ramp up in the United States. In fact, it was right before Palm Sunday that as a church we went into lockdown mode. Inarguably, Holy Week and Easter are the most important events that we remember on the church calendar. Christ's work on the cross bringing reconciliation and forgiveness to the world and Christ conquering sin and death on that first Easter **IS** the Good News of the Gospel. This year at Union, we want to try to make up for what we missed last year!! We hope that you will be able to join us for all our Holy Week events! We also invite you to use the insert in this month's newsletter to invite a friend or two to some of these special events!

Palm Sunday-March 28, 10 AM Outdoor and 11 AM Indoor

We hope that you will join us for one of our services on **Palm Sunday** at **10 AM** and **11 AM**. The 10 AM service will be outdoors and approximately 30 minutes long. Our 11 AM service will be inside.

Between the services at **10:30 AM**, we will also have a special time together. We will **wave palms** as we sing and have a **short congregation meeting** to review the 2021 budget and allow for meetings of corporation for the Trustees, Scholarship, and/or Cemetery boards. We also hope to have some **special music** and an **infant baptism**! Hopefully those from both services will join us at 10:30 AM!



Holy Week Prayer Stations- Monday, March 29- Thursday, April 1... by sign up

During March we invite you to sign up for a time on one of the first 4 days of Holy Week for you and your family (or COVID friendly group) to come to the church and walk through a special set of **prayer stations** in the church. Similar to what we had at Christmas, each prayer station will include a video where members and friends from Union have read scripture, a devotion connected to Holy Week, and a prayer. There will also be special music. Each station will also have a hand sanitizer and a way for you to disinfect the area. You will be able to sign up for these stations during worship each Sunday all through March. But you can also contact the church office to set up your time.



Good Friday

Procession of the Cross Good Friday Service- April 2, 6 PM

On the evening of **Good Friday**, we invite you to join us and other Presbyterian churches from the south side of Gastonia for a **procession of the cross**. We will meet outdoors at **New Hope Church** at **6 PM** for a short Scripture reading and devotion and then travel by cars from church to church as we listen to more of the story of Good Friday and reflect on Christ's death on the cross. Join us for this very special community service.

K SCHEDULE



Sabado de Gloria & Easter Egg Hunt- April 3, 10 AM

Like each Saturday before Easter, our older youth will be putting on an **Easter Egg Hunt** for our younger youth at **10 AM**. We invite you to bring in some wrapped candy this month so that they can use it to fill eggs for this event.

However, we will be doing more than just a Egg Hunt for the children this year. We will also be hosting our own version of **Sabado de Gloria** for all ages. The Sabado de Gloria is a special service that is held any many places in Mexico on Holy Saturday. As part of this service we will be decorating wooden eggs to hang on our church garden tree, singing songs, and have a bonfire in the back parking lot of the church. As part of the service you will have an opportunity to burn paper mâché items that represent our sin (helping us remember how Christ's death conquered sin and Satan). We will then light a candle from the bonfire to take into the Sanctuary as we ring the church bell (a reminder how we are called to proclaim the very Good News of the cross).

During March, we encourage you and your family to create a paper mâché item that represents sin to burn on April 3. We simply ask that your item be small (smaller than a basketball), and that it be made completely out of burnable materials (you could paper mâché a balloon and then remove the balloon or paper mâché a structure made out of hay and twine). Between services on **March 14** and **21** we will even have some supplies here at church for you to make your paper mâché item.



Easter Sunday- 7:30 AM and 9 AM

On Easter Sunday we will have 2 unique full Easter Services: an **outdoor sunrise service** at **7:30 AM** and an **indoor service** at **9 AM**. We actually invite you to come to the sunrise service a little early to spend some time walking the church grounds and cemetery in prayer (the actual sunrise is actually between 7 & 7:30 AM). From **8:00- 8:45 AM** we will have breakfast biscuits and drinks served outside during a time of fellowship. We encourage those who wish to attend both services and hope that everyone will enjoy the fellowship between!



CEMETERY NEWS

It is with grateful hearts and much appreciation, the Cemetery Committee has received a generous gift for the church cemetery. Please read the following letter:

2/10/21

Dear Members of Union Presbyterian Church Cemetery Committee

Billy Jones

Kathy Kytle

Glenn Sparrow

Brice Thompson Jr.

Billy Wilson

The families of Todd & Trinna Meek and Bob & Teresa Behnke would like to gift a 96 niche columbarium from Gaulden Monument Company, Rock Hill, SC in memory of our parents, Jack and Nellie Meek, who were lifelong members of Union church.

We are glad to be a part of this project and hope this columbarium will serve the burial needs of the church and its members for many years. For those who mourn their loved ones, we envision a place for them to visit and recall cherished memories.

Dad's involvement on the cemetery committee showed us by example the importance of caring for loved ones as well as a continuing history of the church through its previous members. We are thankful that Mom and Dad were blessed over the years with such a caring church family who helped them with both their spiritual and everyday needs.

In Christ,

Todd Meek & Teresa Behnke

It will be several months before the columbarium is delivered and set up by Gaulden Monuments. During that time the Cemetery Committee will be deciding on standards and rules for the columbarium. This gift from Jack and Nellie Meek's family will be a lasting memorial to their memory. Future generations and current members in our church family will benefit from this gift. More information will be provided in the coming months concerning the columbarium.

If you have questions,
contact any of the Cemetery Committee members.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Easter Lilies

If you would like to purchase easter lilies in honor or in memory of someone, an insert is available in each week's bulletins or in the church office from **March 7 - March 21**. The lilies will be displayed inside and outside of the church on Easter Sunday with a special bulletin insert honoring and remembering those we love. The cost of the lilies are **\$10 each** and the **deadline** is **March 21**.

Choir Rehearsal Resumed

On **Wednesday** evenings at **7 PM**, the choir has resumed rehearsals weekly through March.

Church Work Day

Saturday, March 13 at 8 AM, we will be beautifying our church grounds in preparation for the Celebration of Easter. Bring any yard tools you have available and join us if you are able...there will be something for all ages and abilities to help with.



Westminster Shorter Catechism

On **Sunday, March 14**, we are resuming our Westminster Catechism class that was cut short by cold weather. Join with 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 out near the youth building. Don't forget to bring a chair! Children and Youth will meet at **4:00 PM** for some "socially distant" activities and then we will all meet together at **4:30 PM**.

Congregational Meeting & Baptism

At **10:30 AM** (between the 10 AM and 11 AM worship services) on **Sunday, March 28** there will be a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of reviewing the 2021 budget and to have corporation meetings for the Cemetery, Trustees and/or Scholarship boards. We also plan to hold a baptism for Meredith Nelson, daughter of Brian and Jennifer Nelson

Pastor Study Leave

Pastor James will be on study leave from Monday, April 5 through Friday April 9.

Worship in March

Sermon Series during Lent: The Lord is our Shepherd

March 7; Psalm 23:4a & Jonah 2, "No Wrong Turns?"

March 14; Psalm 23:4b & Hebrews 12: 7-11, "Good Cop Bad Cop"

March 21; Psalm 23:5b &, Revelation 19:5-10, "Anointed By God"

March 28; Psalm 23:5a & Mark 11: 1-19, "A Party for Your Enemies"

-Palm Sunday

April 4; Psalm 23: 6 & Matthew 28, "Secure Forever"

-Resurrection of the Lord Sunday



Happy Birthday to You



FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JANUARY 2021

	January	Year to Date
Revenue	\$15,547	\$15,547
Expenses	<u>14,542</u> 1,005	<u>14,542</u> 1,005

Monthly Budget Requirements \$18,958

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 Jason Morrison, Treasurer.



PRESBYTERY PRAYER CALENDAR

March 7

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

March 14

Warren Wilson
CPO 6355
P.O. Box 9000,
Asheville, NC 28815
deagle@warren-wilson.edu



*This is the confidence we
have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything
according to His will,
He hears us.*

1 John 5:14

March 21

Waynesville First
305 North Main Street,
Waynesville, NC 28786
firstpresalive@bellsouth.net

March 28

Wee Kirk
P.O. Box 702
Linville, NC 28646

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 10 AM Bible Study	3 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 6 PM C & T	5	6
7 2:30 PM SOC	8	9 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM B & G	10 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13 8 AM B & G Work Day
14 12 PM W & C 2:30 PM W & S Between Services Paper Mâché Creations Westminster Class 4 PM Children 4:30 PM All Ages	15	16 10 AM Bible Study	17 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 Between Services Paper Mâché Creations 2:30 PM Session Meeting	22	23 10 AM Bible Study	24 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27
28 10 AM Outdoor Worship Service 10:30 AM Congregational Meeting & Baptism 11 AM Indoor Worship	29	30	31	April 1	April 2	April 3
<div>PRAYER STATIONS for Holy Week</div>				<div>+</div> <div>Procession of the Cross</div>	10 AM Easter Egg Hunt Sabado de Gloria Service	

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

March 28	Palm Sunday
March 29-April 1	Holy Week Prayer Walk
April 2	Procession of the Cross
April 3	Easter Egg Hunt
	Holy Saturday Celebration