

THE UNION PRESS

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A LETTER FROM YOUR SESSION



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*Friendly
Reminder*

**Newsletter
Submissions for the
NOVEMBER issue
are due October 21st**

So often we feel that our way is the way God is going work out his plan. We become passionate about things we believe are absolutely in his plans. What we fail to consider is his timing. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:10 "to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ." This applies to both our personal walk and our walk as a body of believers.

Donegal is requiring that we accept a 10-year Reversion Clause. This is in line with PCUSA's Trust clause. The Trust clause explains how from PCUSA's point of view we are all one body of believers. As one body of believers there can be no separation. All local congregations and their assets are held in trust for the whole body of believers, PCUSA. Donegal is dating the start of our "Reversion clause" as May 20, 2014, the date Union's Financial Contract for Dismissal was approved by Presbytery. We will be released from the Reversion clause May 20, 2024.

We have witnessed God working his will at Union. We, as a congregation, have completed in 9 months what was discussed, debated, and prayed for, for 9 years. Lord willing as we are dismissed from Donegal Presbytery PCUSA on Tuesday, September 25th and accepted into EPC's Presbytery of the East on Saturday September 29th a new journey for Union begins.

Donegal Presbytery has made us jump through many hoops to complete the process. We have met all of their conditions and (are prepared to/have) completed all of the requirements demanded of us. The final step for dismissal is the payment of \$25,000 to release us and our property from the PCUSA “trust clause”. While we do have the funds to complete this, this payment will take away most of the cushion we have to meet our financial obligations.

As humans, we worry about the financial aspects of fulfilling God's will. We worry about the expense of dismissal, the life span of our HVAC units and the salary of a pastor, among others, as we move forward.

We trust that God will provide, in his time, as we prayerfully work to be good stewards of what we are given. If you feel you are being led to give above your normal giving, please do. If you would like to specify your gift be used for a specific purpose please speak with one of the Session members.

Your Session

SESSION HAPPENINGS

The Session met on August 8th, 2018. It was noted that the upcoming nominating committee for 2019 offices need to be appointed. Bylaws call for it to be two session members and four congregation members. Possible choices need to be considered. There need to be 2 auditors appointed. Marty Greenleaf reported that Sarah Jane Mullins had agreed to be one. A second needs to be found. Ray Wallace has been added as a second signer on the trustee checking account in case Marty was not available.

The ongoing dismissal from PCUSA was discussed. There will be a meeting of the session on August 10 with the examination committee from EPC. (This was held, and the committee unanimously recommended that we be accepted) (The session also met with Donegal Presbytery to verify that we have properly met all of their requirements for dismissal). Marty Greenleaf reported that he has been in contact with The Lancaster County Historical Society and they have agreed to copy our church records at no charge if they can keep a copy. (Session minutes, trustees, roll books, etc.) Donegal Presbytery, as a condition for dismissal is requiring that the originals go to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia for safe keeping. They are adamant on this point. They also are unbending on requiring a reversion clause whereby if we should leave EPC and not go to another Reformed Presbyterian body within 10 years of the discernment, we will revert to being held in trust by PCUSA. They have gone to court several times and always won. We (session) are fearful that if we fight this the General Assembly of PCUSA may void our financial settlement agreement and make us start over the process and charge a much higher figure. One church that lost in court ended up paying 1.8 Million dollars.

Marty Greenleaf has replaced Barb Baily as the alternate signer on the checking account. Julie Walton has taken over the bookkeeping and monthly report processing and the transfer has gone seamlessly. Judy Beiler and Greg Nixon handle the collection accounting and deposits and transfers and all is going well. Marty Greenleaf and Ken Beiler oversee the books. Esther Taylor resigned from the Memorial Fund and has been replaced by Pat McCardell. Dick Hastings continues on the committee.

The next communion service will be October 7th. It will probably be the served type. We are probably looking at replacing the Christmas Pageant with a Christmas Organ concert and Hymn sing with possible addition of a couple soloists and the new choir. This is still being worked on.

Elaine Swinehart and Tom Chase have been performing admirably as our pulpit supply with a few others occasionally worked in.

The trustees reported some repairs had to be done in the manse. The church heating oil tank was filled in July at a time that it appeared the price was lowest. It is since up about 15 cents per gallon. We have also locked in a very low electric price for the next three years. We have completed the repairs of all the emergency lights.

The meeting adjourned with prayer and a request for continued guidance during this difficult period.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Giving for August: \$10,515.

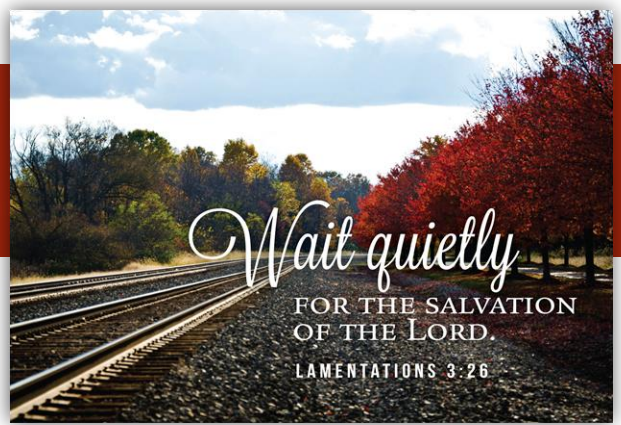
Expenses: \$10,823.

(Keep in mind that a full-time minister would add about \$5000 /month)

October

October 28th Worship Service

Pending our dismissal from the Presbytery of Donegal, EPC
installation service of Elders and Deacons



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 Trustees	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>World Communion</i> 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship – Elaine Swinehart	8 <i>Columbus Day</i> 1:00 Circle 1 & 2 7:00 Circle 3	9 1:30 Deacons 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir Practice	10 9:00 Art Class 7:00 Session	11	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship – Kurt Schenk	15	16 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir Practice	17 9:00 Art Class	18	19	20
21 <i>HOME COMING NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i> 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship – George Yates	22	23 6:30 Girl Scouts	24 9:00 Art Class	25	26	27
28 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship – Tom Chase	29	30 6:30 Girl Scouts	31 9:00 Art Class			

SESSION HAPPENINGS



OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Samuel Stoner
- 3 Terry Hart
- 5 Thomas Nixon
Wendi Greenleaf
- 6 Corrie Chase
Amy Rineer
- 8 Mary Shoemaker
Kimberly Shoemaker
Rick Rineer
- 9 Ken Roberts
- 10 Judy Greenleaf
Keith Oswald
- 13 Kristin Carter
- 14 Amber Greenleaf Hudler
- 16 Julia Shoemaker
- 17 James Thompson
Christopher Scotten
- 20 Miranda Miller
Betty Joan Vasco
- 22 Marian Weicksel
- 25 Gail Strohmaier
Aiden Hastings
- 27 Joseph Shaffer
- 28 Aliza Compher
Michelle Cavanaugh
- 31 Matthew Wade

October Food Bank

- Canned Fruit
(any size/any variety)
- Tomato Sauce (large can)
 - Corn Muffin Mix
 - Baby Wipes
 - Diapers size 6

October Flowers

- 7 Joe & Helen Pugh
- 14 Charlotte Stoner
- 21 Dick & Janet Stewart
- 28 Jim Hastings

October Greeters

- 7 Milt & Joan Whiteside
- 14 Pat DiPaola & Charlotte Stoner
- 21 Dick & Janet Stewart
- 28 Carol Oswald

Lectionary Passages

October 7

Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26:1-12;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

October 14

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15;
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

October 21

Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c;
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

October 28

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22);
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52



Thank you

Thank you for your continued prayers as I'm recovering. Your prayers, cards and phone calls have been so encouraging to me. I'm now "brace free" and having therapy. I've been truly blessed by God's love, graciousness and care.

Thank you all again and God bless you.

~Verna Mae Walton

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank you for your cards thoughts and prayers as we said "see ya later" to Nan (Vi Snyder). We also want to thank you for making her feel welcome during our time at Union.

With love, Rick, Amy &
Anna Rineer



Women of Little Britain Church invite us to their Fellowship Meal on Tuesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. Please give reservations to Charlotte (717)529-2575 by Sunday, October 7th

BIBLE STUDY



In the month of October two Bible Studies will be available to anyone who wishes to learn more about how God is "Bigger than my Opposition". The scripture is Acts chapter 15. The groups will meet at the church on Monday October 8 at 1pm and 7pm.

Looking forward to studying with you!



October 21st

10:00 am Worship Service

GUEST MINISTER: Rev. George Yates

Worship Assistants: Rev. Tom Chase and
Rev. Elaine Swinehart

Luncheon Following Service



Union Presbyterian Church
5637 Street Road,
Kirkwood, PA 17536

(Address Services Requested)



Order Form for Mums

Those who would like to give mums should complete this form and return it by Sunday, October 18th

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Mums are \$3.00 each • Quantity ordered _____ @ \$3.00 each = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Union Presbyterian Church.

Attach your check to this form and mail both to:

Union Presbyterian Church, 5637 Street Road, Kirkwood, PA 17536

Or you may give your check and order form to Charlotte Stoner.