

THE UNION PRESS

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Newsletter Submissions for the May issue are due April 19th

SESSION HAPPENINGS

The regular monthly session meeting was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Moderator Rev. Milligan from LBPC opened with prayer. New session members Carol Oswald and Dick Stewart were welcomed and Carol was elected Clerk of the session to replaced outgoing clerk Barb Whyte.

The minutes of the previous meeting and congregational meeting were approved. It was reported by the Pastor search committee that the Church information forms were complete and the ad for a pastor has been posted on the EPC web site. Arlene Hastings, Marty Greenleaf and Ray Wallace reported attending Presbytery in January. It was noted that 80% of churches today are less than 200 members and many congregations of 50 or less are doing quite well.

Elder Jim Huber from LBPC was present to offer Little Britains encouragement as we move forward. He felt much emphasis is put on opening new churches and that we should help the ones we already have also including struggling small churches.

The treasurers report was approved and after review of bills and credit card charges, to pay all bills. On committees, it was noted that an elder needs appointed to the nominating committee and an auditor will need appointed yet.

Some dates for events were approved: Family game night Feb 23rd, March 15th Girl Scout Sunday, Communion moved up to Feb. 23rd, Good Friday service April 15th, Organ concert for July 5th and Dana Nixon use of Memorial Hall on March 7th.

Marty Greenleaf reported that the trustees had replaced system vents, boiler relief valves and auto fill valve and loop control valve and control motor in the new wings heating system. An AC compressor fan motor was replaced and a new circuit board is ordered for an air handler. A new nightlight will be installed to replace failed one on NW church corner.

The new doorbell has been installed and some bugs are being worked out so that the doors can be locked during service and while Julie is alone in the office. It rings on Julie and Marty's phones and shows a picture of the entrance. It also plays a tune in the back corner of the sanctuary. The bug seems to be its reliance on the churches (Frontier) Wi-Fi service to work properly. Despite some rumors to the contrary, there are NO guns in the church.

Ruth Lesley and Marty Greenleaf were reappointed as church treasurers and Judy Beiler and Pat McCardell as financial secretaries. Ray Wallace is alternate moderator. EPC (and PCUSA) rules call for church roll book to be updated each year and individuals moved to active / inactive / removed as appropriate. This has not been done for several years and needs to be addressed.

Session Happenings (continued)

The choir will be starting again soon. Jen Deiter will be serving as accompanist. She will be paid \$25 for practices and \$50 when performing in church services. Tentative dates will be advertised for practices and performances. We will need to pay \$87 for music. They will be performing with the combined choirs for the Easter Cantata at LBPC on April 5th.

The meeting closed with prayer to reconvene on March 18th as Rev. Milligan will not be available on the regular night, March 11th.

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Giving for February: \$ 11,380 February Expenses: \$5,678

(Keep in mind a full-time pastor will add about \$6000 per month to exp.)

Sunday School collection for the Glovers: \$126



UNION'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONA VIRUS

This has obviously been a very trying time for everyone and Union Church has had to make adjustments to our schedules just like everyone else. We did have a very nice Sunday service on March 15th. Many other churches in the area were closed but we made several adjustments to keep everyone separated and safe. Immediately thereafter however government edicts have determined that large group gatherings should cease and we have decided to comply. There is no timetable for when this will change. Our fervent desire is to be able to have Easter Sunday services if permitted. Decisions will be made as conditions change. Until then all plans and meetings are on hold. The Easter egg hunt and the Palm Sunday cantata have been canceled.

We had planned two events over the next couple weeks that were important to our congregation. World Relief Sunday (formerly One great hour of sharing) was to be on March 22nd. We will postpone that and announce a new date in the future.

We had also planned to conduct a love offering on March 29th for our custodians, the Brendels. Jim Brendel had gone into the hospital many weeks ago for gall bladder surgery. Many complications followed and he was in and out of the hospital many times. The last time in he developed heart problems and unfortunately passed away the second week of March. About that time, they had car problems and had to buy another car. They have very large hospital bills and of course now funeral expenses. We agreed to conduct a love offering to help Rose get through this difficult time. Because we cannot presently hold services, we are asking church members to please mail a donation to the church at 5637 Street Rd., Kirkwood, PA 17536. Please make the check out to UPC and note "Brendels" on the subject line. We will send a church check to them and make note of your donations to them. Your kindness will be greatly appreciated at this difficult time. Please try to send your contributions in by April 10th.

We have asked most groups using the church facilities to stop until further notice. We hope everyone will do their part to help control the spread of the virus. Pray for the Lords help and be safe and vigilant and we will all come through this trying time better. (Continued on Page 6)



Shoe Drive...238 Bags! We want to thank you so very much for letting us have a shoe collection box at Union Church. Your participation has helped us reach our goal of collecting 200+ bags of shoes. By supporting us this has made it possible for us to attend the Junior National Young Leaders conference in Washington, DC. Thank you again!

Dear Union Family, I would like to thank you for all your cards and prayers. I'm feeling much better. ~ Pat DiPaola



**Eclectic Extravaganza
Yard Sale**
September 4 and 5, 2020

REMINDER

Have you checked your "Lawn Sale Box" lately?

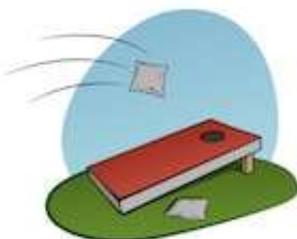
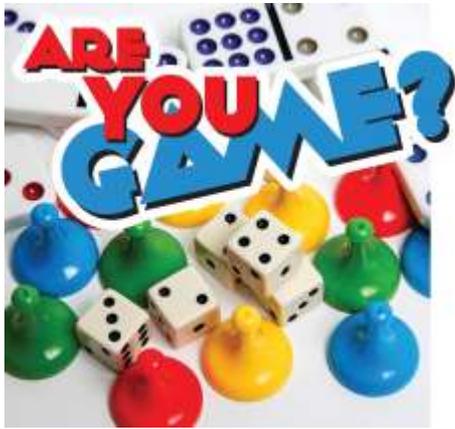
Is it accumulating "Goodies"?

Thank You, Lawn Sale Gang



QUILT DEDICATION





April



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 1:30 Deacons	4
5 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship Palm Sunday	6 7:00 Trustees	7 6:30 Girl Scouts	8 9:00 Art Class 7:00 Session	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship Easter Sunday	13 1:00 Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study	14 6:30 Girl Scouts	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship	20	21 6:30 Girl Scouts	22 Administrative Professionals Day	23	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship	27	28 6:30 Girl Scouts	29	30		



FOOD BANK - Help us help students and families during the coronavirus outbreak...

Many of you have outreached to us, asking how you can help. The coronavirus has affected many things, but we remain committed to helping families in the southern end. We will continue to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner items to students (and their families) currently enrolled in our SWEEP program. These will be larger size items that can be shared. We will have different pick-up locations to make it easier for families to get the food bags. If you would like to help, below are some items that we can use:

peanut butter, jelly, loaves of bread, pancake mix/syrup, granola bars, snack crackers, cereal boxes, spaghetti/sauce, macaroni & cheese, rice, cream of mushroom soup, cans of tuna and chicken, boxes of oatmeal, hotdogs, baked beans, Ramen noodles, canned fruit/vegetables.

We plan to pack food bags this week and next, while the schools are closed. After that time, we will re-evaluate the best way to meet the food needs in our area. Our food drop-off room is open Monday-Friday from 9AM-4PM. For the next two weeks, we will be open Wednesday evenings until 7PM. Thank you for your generosity and your willingness to help! Please call 717-786-4308 or email me at tdolan@snministries.org if you have any questions. Blessings to you!



LECTIONARY PASSAGES

April 5th

Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a;
Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;
Matthew 26:14-27:66

April 12th

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43;
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18;

April 19th

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16:1-11;
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 26th

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41;
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

APRIL FLOWERS & GREETERS

5 –	5 – Larry & Colleen Sheaffer
12 –	12 – Jeanne Stone & Elsie Rupert
19 –	19 – Milt & Joan Whiteside
26 –	26 – Marty & Judy Greenleaf

2	<i>Stuart Shoemaker</i>
	<i>Stephen Compher</i>
3	<i>Kent Wade</i>
5	<i>Reenie Chase</i>
6	<i>Stanley Vasco</i>
8	<i>David Kelley</i>
10	<i>Patti Nickle</i>
	<i>Dyson Bouchelle</i>
11	<i>Brooke McCardell</i>
	<i>Angela Slodki</i>
	<i>Joy Compher</i>
12	<i>Gregory Trimble</i>
17	<i>Keith Hastings</i>
18	<i>Bailey McCardell</i>
20	<i>Roger Cline</i>
23	<i>Colleen Shoemaker</i>
24	<i>William Taylor</i>
25	<i>Arlene Hastings</i>
	<i>Linda Shoemaker</i>
26	<i>Alexandria Wallace</i>
28	<i>Luke Graziano</i>
29	<i>William Noonan</i>
30	<i>Larry Sheaffer</i>

UNION'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONA VIRUS (Continued from Page 2)

You may of course tithe by mail also. Many church expenses continue as usual. You may put your regular tithing envelope inside another envelope and mail or simply send a check. Either way will be recorded so you receive credit for tax purposes.

Union Presbyterian Church
5637 Street Road,
Kirkwood, PA 17536



Greetings brother and sisters, fellow quarantined children of GOD. How are you holding up in these unprecedented days? Today I would like to offer some words of hope from Roman's chapter 8. We have been separated by government mandate BUT we are United by the Spirit of God. We are quarantined in our homes BUT our spirits fly free in the love of Christ.

Through this ordeal God is faithful and walks beside us. And still there are times I doubt, I don't know how to pray, I wonder what is going to happen and a loneliness begins to seep in. Does this sound familiar? The remedy is to turn to God's Word. ROMANS 8:26 Tells us: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness: for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." The point here is that it is not the words we speak, but the desire of your heart to know the heart of God. We need to take time with God. This does not necessarily mean we have to talk, but to be in His presence, listening, allowing the Spirit to speak for us, meditating on His Word, and resting in God's love.

I do not have a crystal ball to tell us what the future holds but I know what God's Word tells us. ROMANS 8:28 SAYS: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." As children of God, we know that we are loved by Him and that He has called us. Therefore, we know that something good will come out of this viral siege and the avalanche of challenges that have come with it. Already have seen families being brought closer together, priorities changing, people caring for others, and people spending more time in God's Word. Look around, what positive things have you noticed that are the result of the situation we are in today.

Finally, ROMANS 8:35, 37-39 says: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardships, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. For I am convinced that neither, death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This long list includes the Corona virus, subsequent unemployment, isolation, loneliness, even the lack of toilet paper. Nothing, absolutely nothing can separate us from Gods love. ~ A Message From Rev. Elaine Swinehart