

# The Union Press

December 2020



**“To know Him and make Him known”**

## SESSION HAPPENINGS

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**Newsletter submissions for the Jan. issue are due Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>**

The Session met on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and opened with prayer by Rev. Milligan of Little Britain PC as acting moderator. We discussed the EPC “Engage 2025” mission project where they try to establish missionaries and churches in the Caucasus region between Russia and the middle east. We will consider this when we work on the 2021 Benevolence budget.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurers report were approved. Some funds were moved from the checking account to a money market account. We will need to buy some heating oil soon. There was a slight increase in the fire insurance premium and the deductible was increased.

The nominating committee reported that they have met and are finishing up a slate of officers for action at the January congregational meeting. We may operate with 5 trustees unless another volunteer comes forth. The worship committee reported that Homecoming, due to Corona Virus will not be very special and we will not have the usual luncheon. We will have a service on November 1<sup>st</sup> honoring members who passed away in 2019. This had been postponed last spring. We will have “Blanket Sunday” on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

We will not be having a Christmas program due to Covid but may have Bob Trimble record a Christmas Music program on the organ and put on the website and CD's for people to enjoy. We will be having a Christmas Eve service and communion on December 20<sup>th</sup>. We are also investigating recording Sunday services to take to shut ins. (Talk to Marty Greenleaf if you want to borrow one.)

Rev. Scott Phillips will be with us many Sundays in November and December. He has been very well received and is presenting a very interesting series of sermons on the disciples. The pastor search committee continues to search.

The session studied and modified the birthday list published in the Press to be more in line with actual membership and attendance. Rev. Milligan closed the meeting with prayer for our members who are ill and for the continued success of the Union Congregation.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**Giving for October: \$8,764**

**October Expenses: \$6,533**

**Keep in mind a full-time minister will add about \$6,000 per month**

**Sunday School collection for the Glovers: \$50**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:00 Art Class	3	4 1:30 Deacon Mtg	5
6 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun of Advent  10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips	7 7:00 Trustee Mtg	8	9 9:00 Art Class 7:00 Session Mtg	10	11	12
13 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of Advent 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips	14 NO Bible Studies	15	16 9:00 Art Class	17	18	19
20 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of Advent <b>COMMUNION</b>  10:00 Worship – Elaine Swinehart	21  Winter Begins	22	23 9:00 Art Class	24  7:00 Worship Service  Christmas Eve	25  Christmas Day	26
27 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Advent  10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips	28	29	30 9:00 Art Class	31  New Year's Eve		





## WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS AND SUNDAY SERVICES

It is the opinion of session that except in extreme conditions (heavy ice, a foot of snow and more coming, etc.) that the decision to attend church services should be a personal decision based upon your own conditions and abilities. One person may be a mile down a main road and the next person has to come 5 miles over notorious back roads. We feel that in general, we will hold a service for whoever can come. If a minister does not show up, we will pray and sing songs and make the best of it and probably dismiss early. That being said, we may foresee that conditions dictate that no one should be on the roads. In that condition we may cancel church. WGAL has changed their policy and will only broadcast Church closings on the internet and not TV. WDAC will broadcast but not many people have radios in their house anymore. The current answering system at UPC does not lend itself to remote answering system changes. If the only option is getting cancellations on the internet, the easiest way is for us to disperse the information directly via "The Union eNews" which comes out weekly. If you are email capable, you will get cancellations that way. If you do not currently get emails but are capable please email the church to get added to the list. (at upc@epix.net ). If you cannot get email, we will also use the phone prayer chain ONLY if canceled. If you are not on either, figure out which one you want on and call Julie at 717-529-2000. (Tue/Thurs 9-2).

But above all, keep in mind it is a personal decision. Do not feel that if Church is not canceled that you must put your safety at risk by trying to attend. No one will think less of you for being safe. Yet we also want the building to be open for anyone to worship who can safely get here.  
~Your Session.



Scott Phillips will be speaking most Sundays throughout December.



With the Covid cases increasing in the southern end, the decision has been made to suspend Sunday School until further notice.

Complying with the PA Dept. of Health, we are asking all attendees to, for the near future, please keep your mask on during the service unless you have breathing problems that prevent it.

# FOOD BANK

Individual-size cereal boxes, juice boxes, diced tomatoes, canned fruit- all sizes and varieties, tomato and chicken noodle soup, canned chicken, chicken Rice-a-Roni, Tuna Helper, mayonnaise, canned peas, baked beans, egg noodles, and Ramen noodles.

# LECTIONARY PASSAGES

## December 6<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;

2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

## December 13<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-1; Psalm 126:1-6;

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

## December 20<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55;

Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

## December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96:1-13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

## December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-9; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

## December 29<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148:1-14; Galatians 4:4-7;

Luke 2:22-40



- 2 Emily Hastings
- 4 Nathaniel Wrigley  
Janet Todd
- 5 Patrick Graver  
Chris Shoemaker
- 7 John Noonan
- 8 Mark Jackson  
Kay Jackson  
Adam Kelley
- 14 Lois Ferguson
- 15 William Sumner
- 16 Holly Parmer
- 17 Peter Lesley
- 18 Robert Ambler
- 20 Marsha Ferguson
- 21 Gary Jackson, Jr.
- 22 Jerry Eldreth  
Brian Michael Wade  
Jane Ferguson  
Timothy Slodki
- 23 Kristen Hoak
- 24 Mary Jo Ferguson
- 25 Jesus  
Martin Greenleaf, Jr.
- 26 Kayla Ferguson Bailey
- 27 Angie Miller
- 29 Timothy Kleinhans

# DEC. FLOWERS

- 6 Ruth Barker
- 13 Diane Hastings
- 20 Barb & Larry Whyte
- 27 Carolyn Sacks



## Union Post Office

The post office at Union Church will operate for the Christmas Holiday Season.

Christmas Cards will be delivered to anyone who attends church. Please place the cards in the box in the lobby. Please have first and last name on the envelope.

**December 6<sup>th</sup> will be the last day to bring cards.** The sooner cards are deposited the better! If you have any questions, please ask Arlene or Donald Hastings 529-2495.



The flower calendar for 2021 is on the bulletin board in the main lobby. Please choose the dates you would wish to provide flowers in the sanctuary vases.



Thank you for all your thoughts, prayers and cards during my surgery and recovery. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated. ~Janet Stewart

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How blessed I am to have such dear caring friends like you all at Union!! Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, and the delicious basket of fresh fruit, which I really like and helps my heart mend with good nourishment. Thank you also for the lovely golden mums which helped decorate our wonderful church for Homecoming – which we were so sorry to miss. Guess this was the first Homecoming we missed since 1955!! God bless you all dear friends.

~Elmer Wade

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We are so grateful to your church and allowing us to use your kitchen for our adoption benefit dinner and auction. It was incredibly successful and God provided beyond what we were expecting! Thank you for being wonderful to work with and blessing our family!

~Brad, Abbey & Grady White

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Many thanks from our family for letting us use your wonderful kitchen on Saturday. Union will always have a special place in my heart for it is where I got my Christian foundation as a child and as a youth through Sunday School and Bible School. God Bless! ~Faye Chase White

Dear Union Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Oaks Ministry. Who knows how long this pandemic will last? But life must continue. Our ladies face special challenges on a good day. Add this to it and all hope could be drained from a person. You are helping keep spirits up. Knowing that organizations like yours continue to care about what happens is more often than not a surprise to our residents. And they are so grateful!

We hope this letter finds you all well and that one day when things are back to normal, whatever that will be, we will see you at one of our fundraisers, whenever that might be. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy. Grace and peace to you and your families.

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Many thanks to each of you who contributed to "The Blanket Sunday" offering. Because of your sacrifice a total of \$1370 was collected. Just imagine what a difference the effort of one group can make to ease the burden of 137 people in the world. ~Blessings, The Blanket Committee



Each year the Solanco Food Bank distributes Christmas baskets to qualifying families in our community. Following is a list of the items needed for each basket.

### Christmas Meals 2020

(\*\*please bring items to food bank by Tuesday, Dec. 15th)

French fried onion	Cream of mushroom soup
Mixed canned vegetables	Canned corn
1 box Rice Krispies	1 bag mini marshmallows
1 bag caramels	Lrg. Can yams/sweet potatoes
1 single-serve container plain Greek yogurt	
1 lb Unsalted butter or margarine	

If donating perishable items, please make sure they are dated past Christmas Day (12/25/20).

Union Presbyterian Church  
5637 Street Road,  
Kirkwood, PA 17536

THE UNION PRESS

DECEMBER 2020

Order form for Poinsettias

Those who would like to give poinsettias should complete this form and return it by  
Sunday, December 18, 2020.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettias are \$7.50 each    Number ordered \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$7.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 Judy Greenleaf.

