

OCTOBER 2020

# THE UNION PRESS

"To know Him and make Him known"

## SESSION HAPPENINGS

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**Newsletter  
submissions for  
the Nov. issue  
are due  
Nov.22nd**

The session met on August 12, 2020 at 7pm in the cafe to allow Covid 19 social distancing. The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer by acting moderator Rev. Tom Milligan of LBPC. All members were present and previous meeting minutes were approved.

Because of the pandemic, both the Presbytery (POTE) and the national General Assembly meetings will be held virtually with Zoom Internet in September. Ray Wallace had been approved as our commissioner to the general assembly and Jerry Phillips of the pastor search committee was also added in hopes of being able to make our pastor search situation more visible at the meeting.

Presbyterian churches are asked to do yearly updates to our rolls. This had not been done for several years, so last month the session approved a list of names to send letters to requesting clarification of the persons role with Union. They were asked if they wanted to remain on the active roll, the inactive roll, or be removed from the roll all together. Several people had also moved away or were deceased. By August 1<sup>st</sup> we had gotten 10 responses. It was noted in the letter that if no response was given that they would automatically be moved to the inactive roll. The updated roll and list of active members with EPC was

reviewed and accepted and approved by the session. This was also important because PCUSA, in the dismissal process, required us to give them ALL of the original roll and record books in our possession, so we had to recreate all of our records and roll books.

The treasurers report was accepted and it was noted that our members had been faithful tithers to the church even during the times we did not meet. The large kitchen refrigerator had stopped working and was repaired by Clarks at a cost of \$370. They also noted that the refrigerator coils were rusty and will probably start to leak. They gave an estimate of repairing it if it did at \$4300. An estimate for a new, similar unit is \$4800.

The worship committee reported that Elaine Swinehart, Mick Chase and Todd Brown continue to be available for pulpit supply. Todd will be less available in September with the uncertainty of school restarting under difficult conditions. Jerry Phillips son, Scott, may also be available after July. The pastor search committee reported sending out notices to colleges and seminaries about our position.

The annual church yard sale was approved to be held Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. It was requested that food not be sold and that provisions be made to move people through quickly and without crowding as much as possible. Discussion on restarting Sunday School and Homecoming will be discussed next month.

The meeting closed with prayer by Rev Milligan for Union Church and its congregation.

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

We trust that God is meeting with you and encouraging you in the midst of the incredible changes that have affected all of us due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is no small thing that this challenging ordeal with threat of death and financial collapse occurs at a time when we are looking to celebrate Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us and his incredible triumph over death. I am in the middle of my annual Easter read of "Jesus the King" by Timothy Keller, a look at the life of Jesus in the book of Mark. As I read of God's incredible sacrificial love for us in the life of Christ Jesus, I am moved to draw nearer to Him in dependence and trust as the world shifts around us.

As destructive as this pandemic has been around the world, we take no small comfort and encouragement in the fact that God is in control and he is completely worthy of our trust. One reflection of that is the incredible way that He has been working in many people's hearts to help them see their need for Him through the pain and the fear they are experiencing. Through the ministry of the Jesus Film Project, millions will get to clearly understand the good news of new life in Christ through media in their own heart languages.

## ONLINE PARTNERSHIP

In response to the need to move evangelism, discipleship and church planting activities online in this age of social isolation, we have been working with ministries around the world to strategize how to do this in each different context. This weekend alone, the JESUS film will be broadcast in hundreds of languages in **110 different countries**.

This is the story of one of those broadcast opportunities.



Mongolian Ad for the Jesus Film Broadcast this Weekend

Late in January, Mongolia took strong action to limit their exposure to the spreading coronavirus. They closed borders and major roadways within the country and all public gatherings were cancelled. Thankfully, there have been few cases of infection in Mongolia, but they have been living with these restrictions almost as long as they were implemented in Wuhan, the epicenter of the virus. They quickly adapted to online church and prayer services, and much ministry outreach also had to move online. As they prayed for opportunities to help people know Jesus in this atmosphere of fear, they were led by God to arrange live showings of the JESUS film by Facebook. Late in March, they felt that God wanted them to think bigger, and they approached a nationwide broadcast system to obtain a slot to show the Jesus film on nationwide cable TV. They rejoiced when the broadcast company gave them not one, but two slots to broadcast the film across the nation over Easter weekend.

Uganaa contacted me to receive a HD version of the Jesus film in Mongolian that would be suitable for broadcast. I was glad to help him find this file, and forwarded it to him, but I also asked some questions about their strategy for follow-up from the broadcast. I offered to connect Uganaa with one of our staff who has been working with broadcast strategies in Africa with a new system of connecting with folks who are impacted by the message of the film. Marc helped me understand how a partnership between ministries in many countries has resulted in a very effective way to make the follow-up much more personal and effective.

Back in December, our ministry started working with The Mentor Ministry (TMM) based out of **Canada**. TMM has developed an online server that can collect inquiries from social media campaigns < continued...>

## ONLINE PARTNERSHIP <... continued from front >

and route those directly to trained "mentors" who can engage folks to share other resources, share the Gospel, help folks grow in their faith and introduce them to local fellowships nearby. Through the creativity of another partner, a programming team in **Ethiopia**, they are able to configure a local phone number in different countries to receive inquiries. This communication gets routed through the server in **Canada** and then back to the trained local mentors in each different country. There, they engage with each contact by answering their questions in their local heart language. Because of this system, a local SMS number or WhatsApp contact number can be displayed in social media campaigns or on video broadcasts. This gives an opportunity for folks to communicate with mature believers in their own country about their questions related to the Gospel of Christ. In parts of Africa, they are seeing more response than their volunteer mentors can handle, and more mentors are being trained.

From there, Uuganaa and I spent late nights and early mornings on video calls (Mongolia is 12 hours separated from the US) and we set up the basics for this follow-up strategy. This led to a video call with the **partners in Ethiopia** to get the local phone numbers set up in **Mongolia**, followed by a video call between **us, Mongolia and Canada** to get the TMM part of the system set up. Now, **20 mentors** have been trained and are ready to give real-time follow-up to people across **Mongolia** who see the film and are led to inquire more.

It was such a joy to be able to speak into trusting God to use this broadcast in a great way, and I was impressed with how every step of the way was bathed in prayer as we sought God for wisdom. **Please pray** this Friday and Saturday (showings on Saturday and Sunday in Mongolia) for the impact of these broadcasts across Mongolia. **Ask God** for many to be impacted by the sacrificial love displayed by Jesus and for **Uuganaa and his team** to speak truth and grace into the lives of folks who reach out. **Thank you** for making it possible for us to have this kind of ministry opportunity even across great distances!

## FAMILY NEWS

We are enjoying being having our girls all back together under one roof. Online school is a bit of an adjustment for them, and everyone's schedules are all over the place. Our local church organized a "help" line for the neighborhood, which has given us a chance to go on shopping runs for folks who are in great need. Caroline used my old shirt to make us masks, and has been making them for some others who have expressed needs. We are doing well, and we appreciate your prayers on our behalf! Please let us know how you are doing!



Ready to face the world!

### Prayer Needs

- Ask God to provide us with needed financial partners. We are trusting God to bring us to a fully-funded status by June so that we can fully enter into our roles.
- Ask God to bless MK2MK ministry. Most of Sally's team is now connecting with MKs remotely across the world.
- Our Jesus Film team is working with ministries all around the world to help them do online ministry with JF resources. Ask God for open doors for ministry.
- Thank God for one East Asia staff who has decided to join our team. Ask God to help another co-worker decide this month about joining us full-time.
- Ask God to help partners in Japan use the "File Zero" program (on JFP App) to engage with youth after Easter.
- Ask God to help our new Jesus Film Project Area Representative, Victor, in Singapore, to serve all the countries of East Asia to use JFP resources for effective ministry that displays God's Glory!

We rejoice with you that we can enjoy God's great salvation and live in Jesus' resurrection power!

*Scott, Sally, Caroline and Emma Glover*

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Giving: Make checks to "Cru"  
P.O. Box 628222  
Orlando, FL 32862-8222  
(on memo line, specify: Acct # 0368269)

Give online at:  
<https://give.cru.org/0368269>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 1:30 Deacon Meeting	3
4 Communion 10:00 Worship – Elaine Swinehart	5 7:00 Trustee Meeting	6	7 9:00 Art Class	8	9	10
11 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips	12 1:00 Bible Study Resumes 7:00 Bible Study Resumes	13	14 9:00 Art Class  7:00 Session Meeting	15	16	17
18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Homecoming 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Mick Chase	19	20	21 9:00 Art Class	22	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips	26	27	28 9:00 Art Class	29	30	31 Reformation Day



**FOOD BANK**

Chicken Noodle Soup, Tomato Soup, Manwich, Pancake Syrup, Apple Sauce/Pudding/Fruit Cups, Chicken Rice-a-Roni, Oatmeal Packets, Snack Crackers, Knorr Pasta Sides, Mashed Potato Pouches, Canned Tuna/Chicken, Canned Fruit (All sizes and varieties), Baked Beans, Canned Potatoes, Individual Cereal Boxes, Granola Bars

**LECTIONARY PASSAGES**

**October 4th**

**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20;  
Psalm 19:1-14;  
Philippians 3:4b-14;  
Matthew 21:33-46

**October 11th**

**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Exodus 32:1-14;  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23;  
Philippians 4:1-9;  
Matthew 22:1-14

**October 18th**

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Exodus 33:12-23;  
Psalm 99:1-9;  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10;  
Matthew 22:15-22

**October 25th**

**Reformation Sunday**

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12;  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8;  
Matthew 22:34-46

**OCTOBER FLOWERS**

- 4 – Carolyn Sacks
- 11 – Charlotte Stoner
- 18 – Jane Walker
- 25 – Dick & Janet Stewart



- 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  
Zoe Sweitzer
- 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 18th**

**10:00 am Worship Service**

GUEST MINISTER: Mick Chase  
Special Music: Kenny Beiler

There will NOT be a Luncheon

**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and your concerns following my surgery and challenging recovery.



We will tentatively be resuming Sunday School on Oct. 18th at 9:15.

**AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT**

Giving for August: \$10,268 August Expenses: \$8,854  
Keep in mind that a full-time minister will add about \$6000 per month.  
Sunday School Collection for Glovers: \$100

## Union Presbyterian Church

5637 Street Road,  
Kirkwood, PA 17536



## THE UNION PRESS

OCTOBER 2020

Scott Phillips is the latest pastor to join our Sunday rotation.



Scott graduated from Lancaster Bible College/Capital Seminary with a Master's of Divinity degree in 2016. He began his calling to ministry as a speaker and writer for House on the Rock Family Ministries, where he served for a number of years before transitioning to pastoral ministry. Scott first served as Associate Pastor at Mill Creek Bible Church and for the last four years has served as the Pastor at Ebenezer EC Church in Brownstown, ending his stationing there last month. Scott is a familiar face at Rawlinsville Camp Meeting, where he has served in a variety of ministry areas and was the Bible Teacher last year.

Scott and his wife Mary live in Witmer with their 3 children. Mary is the Math Coordinator at Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences. As you may have guessed, Scott is the son of Jerry and Judy Phillips.