

The Union Press

Reflect
ON YOUR Blessings

November 2021

"To know Him and make Him known"

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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**Newsletter
submissions for
the Dec. issue
are due
Nov.21st**

It is no secret that I am a big sports fan. I primarily follow baseball, football, and basketball, although I get into a few other sports from time to time. But what I am increasingly not a fan of is sports announcers. In fact, most of the time I watch sports with the volume turned down. Increasingly, the broadcast teams are filled with former players who seem to thrive on suggesting that the current generation of athletes aren't as talented as their generation and pointing out the slightest mistake an athlete makes.

Olympic sports announcers are on a whole separate level with this. Take Alpine Skiing announcers, for example. These men and women are strapping two pieces of fiberglass to their feet and then hurtling themselves at 90 miles an hour down a mountain so treacherous that even mountain goats won't walk on it. And if they don't take a turn at precisely the right angle or they clip a gate, the announcers lose their mind. "Oh...what a mistake that was!"

But the gold medal for awful announcers has to go to figure skating announcers. These people can be ridiculous. Now, I really don't watch figure skating very often, but I've watched enough growing up to know that these athletes defy the laws of physics when they step out onto the ice. They are doing spins and jumps and twists and turns that would result in an ambulance

being called if any of us tried them. But if they bobble on a landing, or don't fully execute a jump, the announcers will act with the same level of disgust that a person who just found a used tissue in their laundry would. "OOOOh...well that has cost him the gold." "Ugh...she should really just get off the ice at this point."

Imagine being these athletes when they watch the replay. They are out there trying their very best, which is better than like 99.99% of the world, and every little failure is being pointed out. In the sports world, excellence often means perfection.

So where am I going with this? Well, I think that our faith journey can feel like that sometimes. We go through life trying our best to meet what feels like an impossible standard of excellence. Never sin. And it feels like God must be up there shaking his head in disgust! But is perfection how the Bible describes excellence?

Let's consider the life of Daniel. Daniel lived the vast majority of his life serving a foreign king. He was part of the remnant that was carried off by King Nebuchadnezzar from Judah to Babylon. Daniel was chosen as a teen to study under the King and grew up to be a powerful administrator and prophet, first under Nebuchadnezzar and later in life under the kings of Persia who had conquered the Babylonians. Isn't that remarkable! Usually when there is a regime change the new ruler wipes the slate clean and brings in a whole new group of administrators, but those kings saw something in Daniel and kept him on. (Cont'd #3)

HOMECOMING

Service



SESSION HAPPENINGS

The session met on Wednesday, September 8th with acting moderator, Rev. Tom Milligan opening with prayer. The minutes and treasurers report were approved. It was noted that the nominating committee will start working on finding people to fill office vacancies for 2022.

The worship committee reported that Rev. Roger Spence will fill in for Scott when on vacation September 5th. We have also located a substitute organist, Chuck Cole, recommended by Bob Trimble, who may be available occasionally. He lives near Jennersville and had played a couple times at Union many years ago. Communion will be held on October 3rd, and Homecoming on October 17th. A retired minister who lives in Lancaster, Ron DiNunzio may be available to us as a substitute or possibly even an interim if needed.

We have been notified by Margaret Miller's attorneys that the estate is getting nearer to closing after many postponements due to covid. It appears we will get several hundred thousand dollars from it eventually. We have also been notified we will receive funds from the Ruth Holmes estate.

The pastor search committee reported that they have had interviews with a potential candidate from Virginia. He has approval from the EPC ministerial committee also.

The trustees reported that an AC in memorial hall had failed. Due to its age, it cost \$12,000 to repair because it uses outdated and nearly unavailable refrigerant (freon) that cost \$100 per pound. We did suspect lightning damage as there was a storm in the area and filed an insurance claim. They have paid about \$8000 toward the repair. All of our AC systems are about 5 years beyond their expected life. We are currently investigating the cost of replacing them and our oil burners with heat pumps with much higher efficiency and the ability to heat any individual room separately. The units that would be in the sanctuary would be virtually noise free as compared to our very noisy AC fan units or the creaky, hissing radiators when heating. We could replace the 13 separate units we currently have with 4 units with nearly twice the energy efficiency rating as the current ones. When we have estimates of prices, we will share all the information with the congregation before anything is done.

The deacons are considering dropping the flower calendar. Signup has been very low. They may get better and seasonal artificial flowers to use, but still, anyone could bring in real flowers for special occasions. The session voted to give \$500 to the Hurricane Ida disaster relief fund.

The meeting closed with prayer to next meet on October 13th.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Continued)

Daniel 6:3 tells us "Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom." Depending on your translation, Daniel is described a few different ways: extraordinary spirit (NAS), exceptional qualities (NIV), and excellent spirit (ESV & KJV)

So what does it mean to have an "excellent spirit?" We are told in verse 4 "but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was *faithful*, and *no negligence or corruption* was to be found in him (NAS). In this verse we see three aspects of what made Daniel excellent. The first is that Daniel was faithful. Excellence is doing what you say you are going to do. Excellent people are reliable, dependable and responsible. They are consistent in their approach to excellence. Give them a big task – their goal is excellence. Give them a small task – their goal is excellence.

We are also told that Daniel was not negligent. In other words, he was attentive. Excellence means doing everything you do to the best of your ability. Excellence means paying attention to the small details Excellence means that we care as much about people as we do anything else.

The third aspect of Daniel's character was that he wasn't corrupt. He was an honest man. See, excellence means having no ulterior motives for doing what you do. It means doing what is right and best, not just what is best for you. Excellence means no short cuts or covering up our flaws and failures.

(Cont'd #7)

November

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 Trustees All Saints Day	2	3 9:00 Art Class	4	5	6
7 Memorial Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips Daylight-Saving Time Ends	8	9	10 9:00 Art Class 7:00 Session	11 1:00 Deacons Veterans Day	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips	15	16	17 9:00 Art Class	18	19	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23	24 9:00 Art Class	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips Advent Begins	29	30				

Union Congregation Questionnaire

Please complete and return on or before November 7

Completed Questionnaires may be deposited in the Survey Box at the back of the Sanctuary or emailed to dwichtraywallace@gmail.com. The Questionnaires will be compiled into a summary of all the answers for each question, with the number of each duplicate answer noted, for Search Committee use and future planning. I would greatly appreciate you including your name, but it is not necessary, so that I may ask for clarification on any answers, if needed. Names, if you choose to include them, will be held in strict confidence by myself only.

Ray Wallace

Pastoral Search Committee

Name _____ (Completely Optional)

As the Pastor Search Committee continues to discern God's will in this search process, we would appreciate your input on the following areas:

1. Every church has "sacred cows", things that congregants do not want to change. These cows could be programs, practices, annual events, parts of the building. Please tell us what sacred cows exist for you.

2. If any of the cows that you listed were to be changed or removed based on solid biblical/theological reasoning, how would you respond?

3. Please identify those things that you believe need to change.

4. The future vision for Union we are seeking will need active participation, not just passive approval. Are we tithing our time, talents and treasure for Union? How might you go above and beyond your current level of participation in these areas?

5. Are you personally willing to participate/serve in which of these areas?

6. Please name one need (material or spiritual) that needs to be addressed in our community that is not being addressed by another church.

7. How willing/committed do you believe Union is in spreading the Gospel to a community/world that is hurting for peace and acceptance?

8. How can we become better disciples?

9. What is your 'vision' for Union as we move forward?

Thank you from the Pastoral Search Committee

FOOD BANK

Cleaning products, juice boxes, pudding cups, fruit cups, sugar, pop tarts, tomato soup, chicken noodle soup, mashed potato pouches, canned chicken

LECTIONARY PASSAGES

November 7th

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17;

Psalm 127:1-5; Hebrews 9:24-28;

Mark 12:38-44

November 15th

34th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 1:4-20;

1 Samuel 2:1-10;

Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25;

Mark 13:1-8

November 21st

Christ the King Sunday

2 Samuel 23:1-7;

Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18);

Revelation 1:4b-8;

John 18:33-37

November 28th

1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16;

Psalm 25:1-10;

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13;

Luke 21:25-36

NOVEMBER FLOWERS

7 – (Still Available)

14 – Ruth Barker

21 – (Still Available)

28 – Diane Hastings

PASTOR’S MESSAGE (Continued)

The Bible doesn’t claim that Daniel was perfect as an administrator, because that’s not the Biblical idea of excellence. Biblical excellence is always being faithful, honest, and attentive.

And in every area of our life (not just ministry) we are to strive for excellence.

Want to be excellent in ministry? Be faithful, honest and attentive.

Want to be an excellent spouse? Be faithful, honest, and attentive.

Want to be an excellent parent? Be faithful, honest, and attentive.

Want to be an excellent neighbor? Be faithful, honest, and attentive.

Want to be an excellent employee or boss? Be faithful, honest, and attentive.

Now, remember, excellence is not perfection. Nobody is going to be perfect. But we all can strive to be faithful, honest, and attentive. We need to be people that do what we say we are going to do. We need to be people that never settle for taking short cuts or trying to cover up our flaws and failures. We need to be people who do everything we can to the best of our ability.



- 1 Charlotte Stoner
- 2 Richard Stoner
- 3 Casey McCardell
- 4 Ray Wallace
- 5 Michael Whiteside
Bill Bard
Gregory Nixon
James Nixon
- 6 Lois Rineer
Evan Hastings
- 8 Judy Beiler
James Daughton II
- 9 Andrea Nixon
Richard Hastings
Tom Chase
Mick Chase
- 10 Sharon Noonan
Joyce Gunzenhauser
Mary Denise Slodki
Glen Weicksel
- 16 William Jackson, Jr.
- 19 James Martin
- 22 Brian Wade
- 23 Matthew Sheaffer
- 28 Thomas McCardell
- 30 Laura Greenleaf

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Giving for September: \$13,381

September Expenses: \$13,660

Sunday School Collection for Glovers: \$135

Union Presbyterian Church

5637 Street Road,
Kirkwood, PA 17536

THE UNION PRESS

NOVEMBER 2021



(**please bring items to food bank by Monday, November 15th)

Turkey (10-12 lb) OR gift card to Giant

Gravy packets	Fresh potatoes (5lbs)
Stuffing mix	Cream of mushroom soup
Yams or fresh potatoes	French Fried Onions
Green beans	Canned pineapple (small)
Cream cheese block	Powdered sugar
Canned pumpkin	Butter or margarine
Cranberry sauce (whole berry)	Rolls

If donating perishable items, please make sure they are dated past Thanksgiving Day (11/25/21).



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 4th 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.