

OCTOBER 2021

THE UNION PRESS

"To know Him and make Him known"

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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Newsletter submissions for the Nov. issue are due Oct. 17th

Growing up I was a big fan of superheroes, and like many kids I often pretended to be one of them. I would pretend to have superspeed or superstrength or be able to fly. But now, as an adult, I wish I had the superpower to control the weather.

Wouldn't that be awesome! It would always be hot and sunny for pool parties. It would never rain when we camped. Snowstorms would always come when we needed a day at home. And hurricanes would always turn back out to sea. And if Joe Calhoun said it was going to storm, I would just say "Not today, not on my watch." Now, there's probably some downsides to being able to control the weather that I'm not seeing, but it would be great, and I think we would all agree that I would use that power responsibly!

Unfortunately, I can't control the weather. No one living today can (frankly, we often aren't even good at predicting it!). In Mark 4:35-41, however, we see the one person who could control the weather as we see Jesus demonstrating His power to calm a storm.

If you are not familiar with the story, Jesus and his disciples are on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee and it has been a long day of teaching. Jesus is

tired, and needs to get away from the crowds, so he directs the disciples to take him to the much-less populated eastern shore of the sea.

So, everyone piles into a boat and they set sail, with a few other boats tagging along. A storm suddenly whipping up on the Sea of Galilee was a common occurrence. This particular storm was ferocious, and the combination of the downpouring rain and the waves crashing over the top the boat quickly threatened to sink it. But Jesus, tired to the point of exhaustion, is asleep on the boat, lying on a cushion in the stern.

Now in this group of disciples included at least 4 very experienced fishermen, who knew how to handle a boat and themselves during a storm on the Sea of Galilee. But this particular storm has them scared out of their minds. They wake Jesus, saying to Him "Teacher do you not care that we are perishing?"

Now, here is where our English translations can fail to fully capture what is going on, so I want to make a couple of points here about the language that Mark uses:

1. Mark is the only writer to record what Jesus said to the storm, and these words – "Peace! Be still!" are also used by Jesus when He casted out the demon at the church service in Capernaum, which suggests that there may have been a demonic source to this storm.

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2. What he is really saying is “put a muzzle on and keep it on...” Or as we might say... “Put a cork in it.”

When Jesus spoke those words the sea immediately became like glass. There wasn't a slow and steady wind down to the storm. Instantly things were calmed. He truly is Lord over all of creation!

Jesus is disappointed in the disciples, not so much because they got scared, but because they still didn't realize who He was. I think the rebuke is more of Jesus saying “Guys...I'm here.” Has that ever happened to you with a small child? They are afraid of something and even though you are right there holding them they still cry out for you to protect them.

And then Mark writes that the disciples were actually filled with fear once they realized what just happened. It seems as if they are more scared after being delivered from the storm than when they were in the middle of it! At times the power of Jesus is kind of overwhelming.

So, What about us? Storms often come at us without warning. It would be great if we could pick and choose when we had to deal with the storms of life, wouldn't it?

“Oh, you know what, we got a little money saved up in the bank, why don't we deal with that financial storm this month?”

“Oh, how about that, the calendar is pretty open for once, I think I deal with that illness storm I've been putting off.”

But it doesn't work that way. Yes, there are times when we can anticipate a storm coming and prepare for it...either a storm of nature like a hurricane or a blizzard, or a storm of life. But by and large, if it's a true storm, we just find ourselves caught in it. And I know that all of you know what it's like to be caught in the midst of a storm:

It's the loss of a job when things at work are going well.

It's a grim diagnosis when you were feeling fine just a few weeks ago.

It's a betrayal in a trusted relationship that you never saw coming.

It's the loss of a loved one you had just visited with.

Our first response to storms is often to panic. It is in the storms that all our fears, doubts and worries come to the forefront. I know that when I'm at the pulpit and I'm ranting and raving it may appear that I've got it all together and can stare a storm right in the face and say “Give me your best shot.” The truth is – I get scared pretty quickly, I struggle with worry and doubt just as much as the next person.

Jesus promises to bring us through the storms, but not to keep us from being in them. This is a tough truth...and even today many people believe that nothing bad should happen to you if you are a Christian. We don't see that anywhere in the Bible. So being in the storm is going to happen. And when it happens there is one and only one who has the power to deliver us from the storms.

His name is Jesus.





October

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 Trustees</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 Art Class</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:00 Deacons</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Columbus Day</p> <p>1:00 Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 Art Class 7:00 Session</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>HOMECOMING</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 Art Class</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 Art Class</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Reformation Day</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship – Scott Phillips</p>						

FOOD BANK

Tomato soup, Chicken noodle soup, Pasta Roni side dishes, Tuna Helper cheesy pasta/creamy broccoli, Sugar, Mayo, Snack pack pudding, Chef Boyardee ravioli 4 packs Cans/bowls, Pork & beans 16oz., Rice A Roni chicken, Quick rolled oats, Old fashioned oats, Bumble bee snack on the run chicken/tuna

LECTIONARY PASSAGES

October 3rd

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

October 10th

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

October 17th

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

October 24th

Reformation Sunday

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

October 31st

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



- 2 Samuel Stoner
- 5 Thomas Nixon
Wendi Greenleaf
- 6 Corrie Chase
- 8 Mary Shoemaker
- 9 Ken Roberts
Zoe Sweitzer
- 10 Judy Greenleaf
Keith Oswald
- 14 Amber Greenleaf Hudler
- 16 Julia Shoemaker
- 17 James Thompson
Christopher Scotten
- 20 Miranda Miller
Betty Joan Vasco
Kevin Oswald
- 22 Marian Weicksel
- 25 Aiden Hastings
- 27 Joseph Shaffer
- 31 Matthew Wade

OCTOBER FLOWERS

- 3 – (Still Available)
- 10 – Dwight & Cheryl Wallace
- 17 – Charlotte Stoner
- 24 – Dick & Janet Stewart
- 30 – (Still Available)



October 17th

10:00 am Worship Service

(More Info Coming Soon)

UNION'S NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

The new pictorial directory for Union is starting to wrap up. If you want to be in it and have not yet had your picture taken -or- if you had your picture taken at the very first setting, which were lost by the computer, you need to make arrangements for a sitting. Either way, see or give Cheryl Wallace a call at 484-268-3596 to make arrangements as soon as possible.

Union Presbyterian Church

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