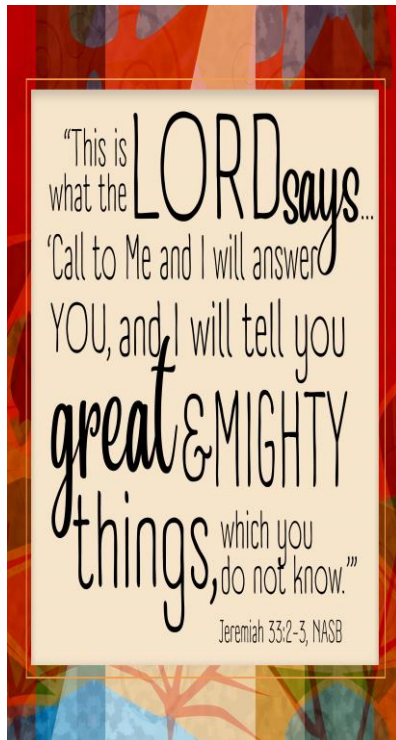




OCTOBER 2025

The Union Press

"To know Him and make Him known"

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

TRAGEDY AND RENEWAL

I have waited some time to share my reflections on the assassination of Charlie Kirk and its ripple effects. For some, my delay may be frustrating—you may have expected a quick, formal response. For others, my decision to speak now may seem unnecessary. Yet in moments like these, the last thing we need is another emotionally charged reaction. We already have more than enough of those.

The truth is, I was deeply shocked by Charlie Kirk's death. I was not a devoted follower of his work, but I admired his clarity about the gospel and his courage to speak truth in the public square. He sought to love both neighbors and enemies—often the two are intermingled—by engaging them honestly. His assassination was shocking because it revealed how far we have fallen as a society. There was once a time when men and women could debate differing ideas, test arguments, and allow truth and reason to prevail for the good of all. Charlie embodied that spirit.

Today, however, we live in a cultural moment where disagreement is too often met not with dialogue but with hostility. Many treat opposing worldviews as threats to be eliminated rather than opportunities for conversation. In the wild predatory animals who are threatened attack, to eliminate the threat - It appears we have devolved into such a state. Much of our culture has lost sight of the sacredness of human life—life that should be honored, protected, and cherished.

The greatest tragedy of Charlie's death, however, is not only cultural but deeply personal. A wife has lost her husband. Erika Kirk will no longer feel his embrace this side of heaven. Their children will no longer hear their father's encouragement, wisdom, and love.

I have also been struck by how many have taken Charlie's death as a personal blow. Of course, countless Christians around the world give their lives for their faith each year without recognition they ought to be recognized as much as Charlie. Yet Charlie's public platform does make him unique: many saw in him a voice for their own convictions—someone willing to stand boldly in a hostile culture. His courage to enter hard conversations, even knowing he would be maligned, inspired many. Perhaps people grieve because his loss feels like the loss of their own voice in the public square.

For some, this grief has turned into anger—deepening the dividing lines in our nation. But we must remember: what is unfolding around us is not merely political; it is spiritual. Jesus Himself warned us:

"Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God." (John 3:19–21)

(Continued on Page 2)

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Pastor's Letter.....1-2
- Upcoming Events3
- Calendar4
- Just So You Know ..5
- Donation Requests...6

REMINDER:

**Deadline for Newsletter
Articles Is Oct. 26th.**

(Pastor's Letter Continued)

And again:

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you... A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:18–21)

So is it wrong to be angry? No. Scripture tells us: "Be angry, and do not sin." (Ephesians 4:26) We should be angry at sin, at the darkness that blinds hearts, and at the hardening of humanity against God. We should lament that the world is not yet what it will be when Christ returns. But in our anger and grief, we must not lose hope.

Paul reminds us:

"Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He has delivered us... and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again." (2 Corinthians 1:9–10)

God is sovereign even in tragedy. He brings life out of death and light out of darkness. On Sunday, September 21, tens of thousands gathered in Arizona to honor Charlie Kirk. Many outlets dismissed the service as a political statement for a "right-wing activist and MAGA supporter." But what I witnessed was unmistakably a Christian memorial service—lifting up Christ, giving thanks for Charlie's life and work, and pointing to the hope of the gospel.

Some may question the motives behind such a public service, but regardless, the truth is this: the gathering became one of the largest evangelistic events on American soil in decades. As Paul said, "Whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice." (Philippians 1:18)

Does this mean that Charlie Kirk should be memorialized with a holiday or a statue on every college campus as some have proposed? No. Statues fade into the background; they become like crooked pictures in a hallway—seen so often that we forget they are there. Charlie's legacy is not in stone but in the example he set. He showed what it means to take up the cross daily and follow Jesus, to endure hostility with faith, to speak truth in love, and to remain steadfast in hope.

Time will tell what the ripple effects of Charlie's assassination and memorial service will be. My prayer is found in Genesis 50:20—that what the enemy meant for evil, God would use for good. That many in our country would be awakened to the truth of Christ. That the Lord would use this cultural moment to draw people to Himself, bringing renewal and gospel hope to our land as He builds His kingdom here.

And my prayer for the church is this: that we would love Christ more deeply, rest more fully in the hope of the gospel, and be a people filled with His peace—speaking truth in love, as Charlie Kirk modeled. May we remember that we belong to a kingdom that cannot be shaken. And while we sojourn here on earth, let us seek the welfare of the place where the Lord has planted us.

Until He returns, may we keep looking to Christ, loving Christ, and serving Christ with faith and hope and love.



JOIN US...October 19th

10:00 am Worship Service

The church will be providing lunch following the service.

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

Giving for August: \$10,746

August Expenses: \$15,923

August Avg. Attendance: 55

Year-To-Date: Giving - \$107,971 Expenses - \$113,455

Sunday School collection for the Glovers: \$82

UPW STUDENT COOKIE TRAYS



REDNER'S RECEIPTS



Union can receive 1% of the total amount of the tapes submitted. If you want to participate you must stop at the store office or Customer Service area to get a Save-A-Tape card. There is a box near the elevator at Union for you to put your receipts in. **You must remember to use your card so that the Save-A-Tape total is on the receipt.**



GROWTH GROUPS

Fall 2025

OCTORARA PINES

Mondays
Leader: Ken Hash

UNION

Wednesdays
Leader: Elaine Swinehart

KIRKWOOD

Wednesdays
Leader: Jerry Phillips

QUARRYVILLE

Thursdays (every other week)
Leader: Pastor Jeremy

OUR GROWTH GROUPS KICK-OFF IS ON **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24** WITH A COVERED DISH POTLUCK AT THE PETERSON'S HOME. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE **"SERVE"** BOARD.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT A GROUP PLEASE SPEAK WITH THE LEADER LISTED ABOVE.

OCTOBER

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 8:30 Prayer Meeting (Café) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Prayer Service @Union	6 6:30 Trustee Mtg Octorara Pines Growth Group	7	8 10:00 Prayer Meeting (Café) Kirkwood & Union Growth Groups	9 Quarryville Growth Group	10	11
12 8:30 Prayer Meeting (Café) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship CONGREGATIONAL MTG. Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday	13 Octorara Pines Growth Group Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day	14	15 10:00 Prayer Meeting (Café) 7:00 Session Mtg Kirkwood & Union Growth Groups	16	17	18
19 HOMECOMING 8:30 Prayer Meeting (Café) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship LUNCHEON	20 Octorara Pines Growth Group	21	22 10:00 Prayer Meeting (Café) Kirkwood & Union Growth Groups	23 Quarryville Growth Group	24 6:00 UPC Family Night	25
26 8:30 Prayer Meeting (Café) 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Reformation Sunday	27 Octorara Pines Growth Group	28	29 10:00 Prayer Meeting (Café) Kirkwood & Union Growth Groups	30	31 Reformation Day	

LECTIONARY PASSAGES

October 5th – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26; Psalm 137:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

October 12th – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 20th – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

October 27th – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65:1-13; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

FOOD BANK

Cream Of Mushroom Soup (Can), Evaporated Milk (12 Oz Can), Green Beans (Can), Triscuits And Wheat Thins, Mayonnaise, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Tomato Soup (10 Oz Size), Chicken Noodle Soup (10 Oz Size), Seafood Chowder/Soup (Can), Microwave Popcorn, Fruit Snacks

GREETERS

- 5 Larry & Colleen Sheaffer
- 12 Karen Roselle
- 19 Charlotte Stoner
- 26 Robin Church

THANK YOU

Your gracious condolences after the passing of my brother Paul Shivery are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for uplifting my sister Joyce Gunzenhauser in prayer. She has recovered and returned to OLMS.

It is a privilege knowing you are prayer warriors.

Gratefully yours, Barbara Pyle

Happy Birthday!



- 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
- 21 Maryellen Graver
- 25 Aiden Hastings
- 27 Joseph Shaffer
- 31 Matthew Wade
Karen Roselle



Union will again be taking donations during October to end hunger through the Solanco Crop Walk. Please make checks payable to Union and mark that it's for the "Crop Walk"

Union Presbyterian Church
5637 Street Road
Kirkwood, PA 17536

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.UNIONPRES.COM



We are collecting new and used, clean coats, hats, gloves, scarves, snowsuits, and new socks. Please hang coats in the entryway by October 26, and they will be delivered to one of the collection sites.



facebook.com/unionpckirkwood

[@unionpresbyterianchurch1502](https://twitter.com/unionpresbyterianchurch1502)



www.unionpres.com