

# The Union Press

"To know Him and make Him known"

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**REMINDER:**  
**Deadline for**  
**Newsletter Articles**  
**Is SEPT. 21st.**

## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

### BY GOD'S FREE-GRACE OR MAN'S FREE-WILL?

#### The Synod of Dort and the First Article of the Remonstrance

Last month, we introduced the Synod of Dort (1618–1619) and the controversy surrounding the teachings of Jacobus Arminius and his followers, the Remonstrants. This month we turn to the first article of their teaching and the biblical response given by the Synod.

#### Article One: Conditional Election

The Remonstrants taught that before the world began, God chose to save those He foresaw would respond to the gospel in faith. In other words, election was based on God's knowledge of our future choice.

While this view tried to emphasize real faith in Christ, it missed a crucial truth: after the fall, our wills are bound by sin. We make choices, but apart from Christ, those choices are always in rebellion against God. Scripture teaches that "every intention of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5), and that "no one seeks for God" (Rom. 3:11). Left to ourselves, we cannot choose Christ.

#### The Biblical Response: Unconditional Election

The Synod of Dort responded by affirming that salvation is entirely the result of God's free and sovereign grace. God would have been just to leave all people in sin, but in His love, He chose to save a people for Himself through Christ. As Paul writes:

"By grace you are saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).  
 "He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him" (Eph. 1:4).

This truth is not meant to stir up fear but to give us assurance. Our salvation does not depend on our weak will or wavering faith but on God's unchanging purpose.

#### Why This Matters Today

Many in the church shy away from the doctrine of election, fearing it may cause division or doubt. But the Synod encouraged believers to teach it faithfully, since it is found in Scripture and is given to comfort God's people.

When we struggle in faith, this doctrine reminds us that God's grace is stronger than our weakness. He will not "break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick" (Isa. 42:3). Instead, He uses His ordained means—the Word, the sacraments, and prayer—to strengthen us and keep us in Christ.

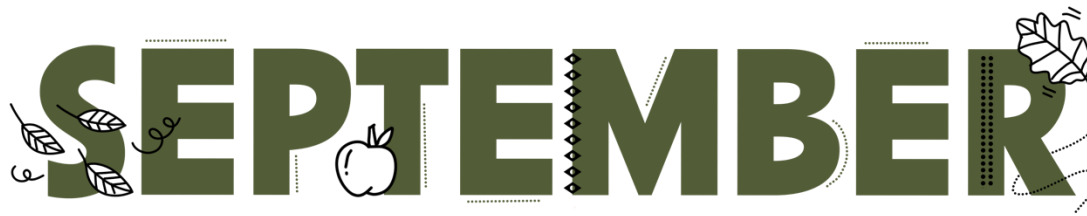
Election is not a cold doctrine, but a warm reminder that our salvation rests entirely in God's gracious hands. It leads us to humility, assurance, and joyful worship of the God who saves sinners by His grace alone.



A huge THANK YOU!!! to everyone who helped with this year's Vacation Bible School.



# SEPTEMBER



2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4 1:00 Deacon Mtg	5	6 9:00 UPW Meeting
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Grandparents Day	8 6:30 Trustee Mtg	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	15	16	17 SOLANCO FAIR	18 SOLANCO FAIR	19 SOLANCO FAIR	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 Autumn Begins	23	24 7:00 Session Mtg	25	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	29	30				





# CHURCH PICNIC



## THANK YOU

*Dear Union Church, Thank you for your support during this difficult time. ~Rick & Deb Harvey*

Dear Union Church Family & Friends, Our family would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has donated clothes and gift cards. Also, your continued love, support, and prayers. We have a long road ahead of us, but will take it one day at a time. ~The Harts

# LECTIONARY PASSAGES

## September 7<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;

Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

## September 14<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14:1-7;

1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

## September 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9;

1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

## September 28<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16;

1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

## FOOD BANK

Triscuits and Wheat thins, mayonnaise, mustard, peaches (can), pineapple (can), toothbrushes, toothpaste, granola bars, snack crackers (packs), tomato soup (10 oz size), chicken noodle soup (10 oz size), seafood chowder/soup (can)

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Giving for July: \$10,990

July Expenses: \$13,732

Year-to-Date: \$97,227

Year-to-Date: \$97,532

Avg. Attendance: 57

Sunday School collection for the Glovers: \$143



- 2 Arienne Wrigley
- 5 Tyler McCardell
- 8 Jordan Reyburn Jr.  
Robert Slodki
- 9 Jean Williams
- 12 Jesse Holmes
- 14 Kenny Beiler
- 16 Jimmie Ann Graver
- 20 Holly Reyburn  
Anna Reyburn
- 21 Carl Weicksel
- 23 Jared Kent Scotten
- 24 Sabrina Miller
- 25 Jeffrey Jackson Jr.  
Andrea Dougherty
- 26 Judy Phillips
- 28 Judy Neideigh
- 30 Julia Wade

## GREETERS

- 7 Larry & Colleen Sheaffer
- 14 Charlotte Stoner
- 21 (OPEN)
- 28 (OPEN)



October 19<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am Worship  
Service

(More Info Coming Soon)

Union Presbyterian Church  
5637 Street Road,  
Kirkwood, PA 17536

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.UNIONPRES.COM](http://WWW.UNIONPRES.COM)



### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEAL

The women of Little Britain Presbyterian Church would like to invite the women of Union to their fellowship meal on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm. Our evening program will be presented by LuAnn Wise. "What's that in your Hand?" An evening about how God makes the ordinary into extraordinary. Please RSVP to Joyce Holloway at 717-548-3436 or [joycegholloway@gmail.com](mailto:joycegholloway@gmail.com) by Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.



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