



"TO KNOW HIM AND MAKE HIM KNOWN"

January 2026

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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**The Due Date for the
February Newsletter is
January 25th.**

REMEMBER AND REJOICE

I hate forgetting things. For better or worse, I pride myself on having a good memory, so when my memory fails me, I find it very frustrating—maybe you can relate. Forgetting names, dates, birthdays, anniversaries, conversations, keys, phones—whatever it is, it's no fun to be forgetful. And yet, forgetfulness affects all of us at one point or another.

This has been true of God's people throughout history. We are a forgetful bunch. Most often, the things we forget are the very things most important to remember. We forget God's goodness—His grace, His mercy, and His kindness toward us. We forget His mighty works. And we forget who we are.

We forget that we belong to God. We forget that we are a blood-bought people through the cross of Christ. We forget that we are children in the family of God and how we are to live as His children. We forget God's gifts to us—His Word, prayer, the Lord's Supper, baptism, a church family, and the countless blessings meant to enrich our lives. We hear the call to "remember" all throughout the Bible.

As the calendar turns from 2025 to 2026, God gives us a natural opportunity to pause and reflect on His goodness. Whether you look forward to the New Year, dread it, or think of it as "just another day," this season invites us to remember. With that in mind, I'd like to reflect on God's goodness to UPC over the past year.

Jesus teaches us that the Holy Spirit sanctifies us through the truth of God's Word, and that has certainly been evident this past year. Through sermon series in Philippians, the Gospel of John, the Ten Commandments, 2 Corinthians, and the Songs of Emmanuel, the Spirit has faithfully instructed and encouraged us as we have sat under God's Word. We were blessed to hear the gospel proclaimed by four different preachers: myself, Ken Hash, Camden Woodward, and Don Heckman.

We are also thankful for the broader Word ministry taking place in our church through Sunday School, Growth Groups, Bible studies, and one-on-one discipleship. Nearly 20 people regularly participate in Sunday School, and close to 25 gather in small groups throughout the week—some of whom are not currently attending worship. We praise God for the ways He continues to work through His Word and Spirit.

We thank God for the privilege of celebrating three baptisms this year and welcoming several new members into our church family. We have seen Him raise up new leaders to serve as Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and in UPW. We've also seen faithful volunteers step forward to serve in hospitality, coffee fellowship, children's ministry, and music. It is a joy to see God's people using their gifts to serve Him and one another.

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

I am also deeply grateful to have seen you band together not only in times of joy, but also through the difficulties and tragedies of this past year. Your love and care for one another has been evident through words of encouragement, prayer, cards, meals, gifts, and many other acts of sacrificial love—many of them known only to the Lord. Thank you for the many ways you faithfully care for the members of Christ's body.

It's hard to believe that it was only at the beginning of 2025 that God allowed us to relaunch our nursery ministry, serving the littlest members of our church family. We were also able to begin regular Family Nights, giving friends and neighbors the opportunity to get to know our church family.

We are thankful for all the ways the Lord has allowed us to reach out to our community. He has sent us out with invitations—to Family Nights, VBS, and special services—and He has sent us out with cookies and Easter baskets. Through these simple efforts, the Lord has allowed meaningful relationships to form. One of the most exciting developments this year has been our partnership with Solid Rock and Bible Adventure. Through these ministries, students at Bart Colerain and their families are hearing the good news of Christ, and we trust that as God's love for sinners is shared, He will bear much fruit in their lives.

We also can't overlook the opportunities God has given us to invite our neighbors to Union. Bob Trimble and friends hosted two outstanding organ concerts, each welcoming over 100 visitors. We enjoyed another fantastic Strawberry Social (any time we need to bring out more tables and chairs—and seat people on the other side of the building—it's a good turnout!), as well as another successful Yard Sale.

What a privilege the Lord has given us to be a blessing to our neighbors and to serve as a beacon for Christ in this corner of the Southern End.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, and if I've overlooked something, I apologize. My hope is simply that we would pause and see how good God has been to us—how He has been pleased to work in us and through us for His glory, for our good, and for the good of this community. As we remember the blessings of the past year, I encourage you to do the same: reflect on the Lord's faithfulness to you in both joyful and difficult seasons, and offer Him thanksgiving and praise for all the ways He has remembered you.

The real marvel, after all, is that God does not forget. He remembers His covenant. He remembers His promises—even when we forget.

David reflects on this beautifully in Psalm 40:

“Blessed is the one who makes the Lord his trust... The Lord has multiplied His wondrous works and His thoughts toward us; none compare to Him... You, O Lord, will not restrain Your mercy from me; Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness will preserve me forever.”

How wonderful it is to remember that in Christ, God is with us and for us—that He thinks of us, and that His mercy, love, and faithfulness will never depart from us. As we move into the New Year, may we remember these truths and rejoice as we continue to serve our awesome God.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Giving for November: \$11,243	November Expenses: \$11,439
Year to Date Giving: \$139,491	Year to Date Expenses: \$155,262
Avg. Attendance: 55	Sunday School collection for the Glovers: \$80



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ORGAN CONCERT



Christmas
Joy



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On January 25th the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following worship, to review the Annual Report, receive the budget and approve new officers.

For those of you that are responsible for a committee annual report, please have them to Julie by Sunday, January 11th.

JANUARY

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 COMMUNION 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 4:00 Prayer Service @Union	5 Octorara Pines Growth Group	6 7:00 Trustee Mtg Epiphany	7	8 1:00 Deacon's Mtg Quarryville Growth Group	9 Kirkwood Growth Group	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	12 1:00 Bible Study Octorara Pines Growth Group	13 7:00 Safety Mtg	14	15	16 Kirkwood Growth Group 6:00-8:00 pm Family Night	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	19 Octorara Pines Growth Group	20	21 7:00 Session Mtg Union Growth Group	22 Quarryville Growth Group	23 Kirkwood Growth Group	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Congregational Meeting	26 Octorara Pines Growth Group	27	28 Union Growth Group	29	30 Kirkwood Growth Group	31

FOOD BANK

Carrots (canned), peas (canned), applesauce (jars), pineapple (can), diced tomatoes, peanut butter, tuna (canned), pork and beans, seafood chowder/soup (can), microwave popcorn, fruit cups, snack crackers (individually wrapped packs)

LECTIONARY PASSAGES

January 4th

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 11th

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

January 18th

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 25th

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

THANK YOU

Thank you for being a blessing! To everyone who helped make our Advent wreath assembling event possible, including: Pastor for supporting the project, writing devotions, offering help and words of encouragement. Julie for on-line searching of materials, ordering, formatting, and completing the Advent devotionals. Josh & Amanda for gathering and taking care of the greens and everyone who donated greenery. Members of the growth groups who wrote devotions. Kevin & Carol who helped clean up. And finally, to everyone who participated in making an Advent wreath. Thank you! Hopefully this project helped draw you closer to Emmanuel through Advent. May God bless you through the New Year as you continue to walk with Him! ~Elaine Swinehart



- 2 Trudy Bard
- 3 Kenny Miller
- 4 Daryl Supplee Sr.
- 7 Trey McCardell
- 12 Pat McCardell
- 14 Jane Walker
- 17 James Vasco II
- 19 Delsa Wrigley
- 20 Kent Hastings
- 21 Paul Shivery III
- Ken Hash
- 24 Megan Ferguson Sirera
- 30 Daniel Stoner

JANUARY GREETERS

- 4 – Larry & Colleen Sheaffer
- 11 – (Still Available)
- 18 – (Still Available)
- 25 – (Still Available)

To Union Friends & Family, I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards during my time in surgery and recovery at my apartment. I would like to thank Jeremy for his visit. I am glad to be up and getting better every day. ~William Ray

Dear Union Church Family, The Hart family would like to thank each and everyone of you who donated money as our gift for our gift for our house fire. It was definitely appreciated! Thank you all again. ~The Harts

Union Presbyterian Church
5637 Street Road,
Kirkwood, PA 17536



THE UNION PRESS

January 2026



The Elders want to remind everyone to use wisdom and care when venturing out for church services and activities. If you've determined that weather and road conditions are unsafe for travel, please stay home, stay warm, and stay safe, even if church services and activities have not been canceled.

If services and activities are canceled, an announcement will be sent via email and the church prayer chain. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the Session.

A graphic for "Family Game Night" on a dark red background. It features several game-related items: two white dice, two white dominoes, a red calendar with a blue star on one date, and three game pieces (two red, one blue). The text "FAMILY GAME NIGHT" is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, a yellow banner contains the date and time. To the right, text encourages bringing games. At the bottom right, the church's name and address are listed.

**FAMILY
GAME NIGHT**

*Friday,
January 16th
6:00 - 8:00 pm*

**Bring your
favorite
card and
board
games to
play!**

**Union Presbyterian Church
5637 Street Rd, Kirkwood**