



Dear Members and Friends of Union Presbyterian Church,
 One of my favorite poems from American Poet, William Baer, is titled “Adam.” It speculates on Adam’s thoughts after the death of his son, Able.

ADAM

[Genesis 4:8]

Of course, he’d seen this “thing” before, but never
 like this. After Eden, he’d found a swan
 lying motionless and silent forever,
 rotting, irretrievable, and gone.

But now it’s his boy, the brother of Cain,
 the shepherd son, the kind and faithful friend
 of He-Who-Is, lying quiet and slain:
 finished, futureless, at the end of his end.

Once, Adam had named the names, and named his own
 two sons, and named this curse, which nullifies
 and terminates, as “death.” But he who’d known
 the awesome power of God looked to the skies,
 knowing, without a doubt, though nothing was said,
 his God both could and would undo the dead.

So, do you think it is possible? Is it possible that Adam had no doubts that one day God could and would undo the dead? On the one hand, as Christians we believe that God is incomprehensible. When considering the qualities of God, how could we ever hope to truly understand him? In “None Greater: The Undomesticated Attributes of God,” Matthew Barrett writes that Scripture passages like Isaiah 40 point out that God is not different from us just in terms of degree but that God is different in kind. “He is the creator, not the created... He is not placed into the hands of the creature, but holds every person- even entire nations!- in the palm of his hand. He is not limited to a specific place... but transcends any one place and is everyone at once with his whole being... There is no one like God. He is unsearchable.”

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June Elders

Eddie Moten
 Tim Grigg
 Allison Jones

Communion

June 2

Stated Session

June 2

Continued from page 1

God may not be comprehensible by us, but he is knowable. God is knowable because he wants to be known and has made himself known to us. Barrett quotes John Calvin to explain the main way we can come to know God. Trying to understand God's essence will just lead to failure. So instead of trying to grasp God's greatness, "we ought to gaze upon his works, that we may be restored by his goodness." Barrett writes that God's works, not his essence, is what allows us to come to know God. That's why we study Scripture isn't it? We come to understand who God is better, by reading about what he did in creation, what he did through the people of Israel, what he did by sending his Son, and what he does through the church. We come to know "who" God is by what he does.

So, could Adam have known that God both could and would one day undo death? Maybe... Adam experienced the creative power of God personally with the creation of Eve. He experienced the perfect world God wanted to provide for humanity in Eden. He knew what it was like to live sin free and with no fear of death. It's implied that Adam may have even walked regularly with God in the Garden. Adam experienced God in a way none of us have. Did Adam know that God COULD undo death? Definitely! Did Adam know that God WOULD one day undo death? Well, at the very least he knew that sin and death was not God's intention for the world and humanity. Knowing who God was by his actions, as Adam sat with his son's remains, Adam very well may have understood that death was only a temporary reality.

May each of us also continue to get to know God better through his works (as we read about it in Scripture and experience it in our lives). May it help us grow in confidence of God. Maybe our faith, hope, and trust in God might even rival Adam's (as he is portrayed in this poem).

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor James

WORSHIP IN JUNE

Have you ever watched synchronized swimming during the Olympics? It only works because everyone on the same team knows intimately the same "water moves" and the team has practiced a ton to be completely in sync with one another. Imagine what would happen if a synchronized swimming team met each other for the first time on the day of Olympics, watched one person do the routine a couple times, and then decided everyone could wing-it that day. Their attempt would be memorable... but probably not in the way they wanted it to be! In 1 Samuel, we get a series of examples of what happens when we are not in sync with God. These results are also memorable (but not in a good way). May these stories from 1 Samuel challenge each of us in worship this June.

Lectionary [Plus] Sermon Series: "Not in Sync w/God's Frequency"

June 2- 1 Samuel 3: 1-16, "Not in Sync... Blind Eye"

-Celebration of Lord's Supper

June 9- 1 Samuel 8: 4-11, 16-22, "Not in Sync.. Longing"

June 16- 1 Samuel 15: 10-23, "Not in Sync... Arrogance"

-Father's Day

June 23- 1 Samuel 16: 1-13, "Not in Sync... Static Limbo"

June 30- 1 Samuel 18: 6-17, "Not in Sync... Fatalism"

July 7- Guest Preacher

-We will celebrate the Lord's Supper the following Sunday (July 14).

OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY IN JUNE

Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between his will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer.

— *Elisabeth Elliot*

Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together. Never do they love one another so well as when they witness the outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer.

— *Charles Finney*

These quotes put it well. There is nothing more important that we can do as Christians than pray: prayer helps us, prayer helps others, and prayer helps unite us with other followers of Christ. We invite you to gather at Union to pray in 2 unique ways this June.

Personal Prayer Walk

On **Thursday June 13th at 7 PM**, we will gather at the church and then head to a nearby neighborhood to place prayer doorhangers on homes in the neighborhood. As we pass out the doorhangers in groups of ones and twos we will individually pray for each home. This **Personal Prayer Walk** is a great opportunity for those who like to pray while they walk or someone who feels a little uncomfortable praying out loud in front of others.



Monthly 3 “C” Prayer Meeting

On **Saturday, June 15th at 10 AM**, we will meet at the church to pray for the 3 big “C’s” (church, communities, and cities). We will pray at the church for church members and friends in need, then head over to the neighborhood people walked a few days earlier and pray for that neighborhood, and then find a place that is integral to the city to pray for Gastonia and Clover. This **Monthly 3 “C” Prayer Meeting** is great for those who understand the value of praying together as the body of Christ and those who wish to put to practice praying out loud.

FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP

A couple of you have asked in recent months how we at Union can be more involved with Frontier Fellowship. The Witness & Service Committee believes that the first 2 steps would be to:

- (1) Learn More
- (2) Pray More

Are you willing to commit to learn more about what Frontier Fellowship is doing in the world and commit to pray for their work?



Each quarter, W&S will be putting out **Frontier Fellowship Journals** for you to pick up and read. Witness & Service hopes that in the same way many of you read the Upper Room each day, that you might also read some of the work of Frontier Fellowship each day and pray about what they are doing throughout the world.

Each Month, Witness & Service will also put out a **Monthly Prayer Update** from Frontier Fellowship. Pastor James will highlight some of these prayer requests as part of worship one Sunday each month. We hope you will pick up a copy for yourself and use its information in your own prayers as well.

Will you more regularly pray for the work being done to make disciples in places where people know Jesus least?



BLESSING BOX UPDATE

Our Blessing Box ministry next to Forestview continues to help many people in the community. However, there are 1 or 2 slots available for people who might want to help keep the Blessing Box full! If you are interested in checking the Blessing Box 1 day a week, and then help fill it with items from the church if it's empty, please let Tammy Biddix or Glenn Sparrow know. We hope you will consider being part of this wonderful hands-on ministry.

PROBLEMS WITH NEWSLETTER BULK MAIL

Since January, we've had problems with 3 of the 5 newsletter bulk mailings. In May it was 3 weeks late, one month 2/3rd of the newsletters were sent back to the church, and another time about 1/2 of them never reached their destination. We are not trying to throw the Post Office under the bus. There are lovely people working there, we know about their staffing issues, and that they are trying to integrate a new payment computer program. That said, we also want to be good stewards of the money given to the church (part of which is being used to mail the Newsletter each month). For several years now C&T has looked at whether there was a better option for mailing newsletters. For a church our size, there really isn't. So, we are going to try three things to deal with this issue.



- (1) Starting with the July Newsletter, we are going to send the newsletter out earlier. For this to work we will need people to get their newsletter articles in earlier. Each month, you will need your articles in by the 15th of the month. This means that July Newsletter articles will need to be in by June 15th.
- (2) Jennifer will be tweaking the newsletter online format to make it more "online-reading" friendly.
- (3) Stacks of newsletters will be available to pick up at the doors of the sanctuary the first couple weeks of the month.

For the next few months, we will continue to bulk mail the newsletter, but we challenge you to "try out" reading the newsletter online and picking it up on Sunday. We will send out a phone tree message when the newsletter is available to pick up or read online (and those of you who receive those messages with email or text will be able to link directly to the online version from the message).

Could we eventually move away from the cost of mailing the newsletter thru inconsistent bulk mailings and just send it to a handful who need it mailed? Let's find out!

PASTOR JAMES VACATION

In June and July Pastor James will be **on vacation** off and on. He will out of town **June 3-7, June 17-21, and July 1-11**. If you need to pastoral need during these times, please reach out to one of the members of Session. Thank You!

COMMUNION IN JULY

Communion has been moved to the second Sunday in July. We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper on Sunday, July 14th**. We hope you will be able to join us.



BOOK CHICKS

Do you enjoy reading a good book? How about snacks and socializing? Join us monthly during our Book Chicks book club meetings for some food, fun, and fellowship! For more information or to find out what book we are reading, please reach out to Kim Morrison. Our next meeting is **Monday, June 17th at 6:30 PM.**

BINGO

Join us for BINGO at Terrace Ridge on **Thursday, June 20th at 3 PM.** You are sure to receive many blessings from this outreach event!



WOMENS CIRCLE

The Golden Girls circle will meet on **Monday, June 3rd at 11 AM** for their monthly meeting. The Soul Sisters will not be meeting again until September.

5 CENTS A MEAL

Our next 5 Cents a meal offering will be on **Sunday, June 2nd during worship.** The money collected will go to support our Blessing Box ministry.



WITNESS AND SERVICE MEETING

Our next meeting will be **Sunday, June 9th at 2:30 PM.** If you are looking for a committee to get involved with, we would love to have you!

GRADUATION SUNDAY

We will celebrate all of our 2024 graduates during worship service on **Sunday, June 2nd.**

HAPPY YEARS

Happy Years will be on **Wednesday, June 19th at 12 PM.** All ages welcomed and invite a friend.

MEN OF THE CHURCH JUNE MEETING

The next Men of the Church Planning meeting will be at **8 AM on June 9th!** Come learn about and help plan future events for the Men of the Church!



UNION ENSEMBLE

The Union Ensemble is on vacation for the Summer! We will begin practicing again in mid-August! Thanks Union Ensemble for all your hard work this year.

TIME TO PICK YOUR FAVORITE HYMN

I don't know about you, but one of my favorite times of the year is July and August. Partly that's because all the songs we sing in worship those months come directly from the congregation! During the **month of June**, we invite you to use the bulletin inserts to **request your favorite hymns and praise songs.** Then in July and August we will try to sing every single one of them!! Last July and August we sang all but 2 of the requests... and this year we hope to sing all of them!





FINANCIAL NEWS

May, 2024

**FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF
April 30, 2024**

	<u>April</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$13,852	\$69,850
Expenses	<u>22,898</u>	<u>72,772</u>
	- \$9,046	- \$3,122

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4: 12-13

Martha Simmons – Disbursing Treasurer
Jason Morrison – Treasurer

PRESBYTERY PRAYER CALENDAR & PRAYER CONCERNS

Bridgewater
3327 US Hwy 70 West
Morganton, NC 28655

Brittain
3456 US Hwy 64
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Brittain’s Cove
P. O. Box 1590
Weaverville, NC 28787

Bryson City
P.O. Box 549
Bryson City, NC 28713
bcpc@pcpcusa.org

- We continue prayers for the Rev. Beth Newman, pastor of Bryson City Presbyterian. Beth was back in the hospital dealing with a number of complications. A Caring Bridge website is available for communication and updates. You can reach it by clicking here.
- We ask for your prayers for safety of our latest Mission Team in Guatemala as they return to North Carolina on Thursday.
- Prayers for Presbytery Associate Rev. George Thompson who broke his foot and awaiting treatment decisions.
- Hold Ronnie Puckett, husband of former PWNC staff member Marcia Puckett, in prayer as he continues immunotherapy every six weeks for his cancer.



JUNE MONTHLY

Newsletter

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday 9AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship						1
2 5 Cents a Meal 2:30 PM Session Meeting	3 7 PM Men's Bible Study	4 10 AM Bible Study	5	6 6 PM Women's Council	7	8
9 8 AM MOC 2:30 PM W&S	10 7 PM Men's Bible Study	11 10 AM Bible Study	12	13 7 PM Personal Prayer Walk	14	15 10 AM 3 "C" Prayer
16	17 6:30 PM Book Chicks 7 PM Men's Bible Study	18 10 AM Bible Study	19 12 PM Happy Years	20 3 PM Bingo	21	22
23	24	25 10 AM Bible Study	26	27	28	29
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 6-8:30 PM						
30						

Union Presbyterian Church

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Non-Profit Organization
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Reverend James Holeman
Pastor

Tammy Biddix
Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Nelson
Communications Director

Jieeun Ha
Accompanist

Church Hours
3:00 PM—6 PM
Tuesday and Thursday



Save the Date



June 2	Communion & 5 Cents of Meal Session Meeting
June 13	Personal Prayer Walk
June 24-28	Vacation Bible School