

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2: 9

Dear Members and Friends of Union Presbyterian Church,

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, I can’t help but think of turkey calls. Here’s one... “What do you CALL a running turkey? -Fast Food!” Here’s another... “What is a turkey CALLED on the day after Thanksgiving? -Lucky!” And another... “What do you CALL a rude turkey? -A Jerk-Key!”

I haven’t really been thinking about turkey jokes recently. What I’ve actually been thinking about is turkey hunting calls. I’ve read somewhere that wild turkeys can make over 30 different types of sounds. But a hunting friend I had in seminary told me that when you hunt turkeys you really only need a couple of calls to flush these birds out. He said that you need to learn how to “YELP“ (in turkey, the yelp means “come here”), you have to be able to “CUT” (multiple clucks that tells turkeys that something dangerous is happening), and you have to be able to “GOBBLE” (which Tom turkeys use to tell hens that they are around and ready for love).



I’ve never hunted turkeys, so I must take my friend’s word on these being the most important calls. But I’ve been thinking about turkey calls because I have been reading the book, “Letters to a Future Saint: Foundations of Faith for the Spiritually Hungry,” by Brad East. In his book, East wrote something that got me thinking. He wrote that many of the most important moments in the Old Testament between people and God started with “calls.” Not “turkey calls” but “God calls.”

Take a minute to think about it. How did Abraham start his relationship with God? God called him. East writes that “God came to Abraham and told him to leave the house of his father and mother, to leave the land of his ancestors, to leave the life and work and worship that he’d known since birth- and to go... west.” God called Abraham, and Abraham followed. God later called Moses, to lead Israel out of Egypt. East writes that Moses went to Pharaoh and speaking on God’s behalf called on Pharaoh to let God’s people go, so they could worship God. Then at Mount Sinai, God called this people to follow him by becoming holy or set apart. The law was given to the Israelites so that when other people looked at them they would “stick out like a sore thumb” and God would shine through.

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November Elders

Carol Beasley
Tammy Biddix
Glenn Sparrow

Communion

November 3

Stated Session

November 17

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Have you ever thought of your relationship with God from the perspective of call? That God calls us, and our job as Christians (being a bunch of big turkeys) is simply to respond to that call? This is what got me thinking about turkey calls. I am sure that there are way more than 30 ways that God COULD call us. But I wonder if God is sort of like a turkey hunter. I wonder if even though he COULD call us a ton of different ways, if he mostly just uses a couple over and over again.

Maybe we could learn a thing or 2 from the way God called Abraham, Moses, and the people of Israel. He called out to Abraham, "Come here! Go over there!" and Abraham went. He called out through Moses, "Let my people go, so they can worship me!" And then Israel was freed from slavery to worship. And he called out to Israel, "Be holy (set apart), so others can see me through you." Aren't those the same ways we are often called today. God calls, "Go over there and tell him or her about me." That's the Great Commission. God calls, "Because of Christ you are free of sin, so worship me." Isn't that why we worship on Sunday, and praise God throughout the week in prayer? And God calls, "Learn more about me and how I want you to behave. Then you can be set apart and draw others to me." God still wants his people to be holy.

God may not YELP, CUT, and GOBBLE at us, but he does call us each and every day. I wonder how well each of us heed those calls?

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor James

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

During most of the month of November we will be exploring what discipleship looks like and how what we learn about God, how drawing nearer to him, and how we serve God is intertwined with one another to bring joy!

Lectionary Sermon: At the Table

November 3- Psalm 24; Isaiah 25: 6-9, "At the Table"

-All Saint's Day Sunday; Celebration of Lord's Supper; Daylight Savings Ends

Sermon Series: The Round-About Joy of Discipleship

November 10- Nehemiah 8: 1-18, "Joy from Head to Heart: Taking in God's Word"

-Veteran's Day Sunday

November 17- Luke 8: 4-8; 19-21,26-39, "Joy from Heart to Hand: Cultivating a Deep Stain"

November 24- Luke 10: 1-12, 17-24, "Joy from Hand to Heart to Head: Step in Time"

-Christ the King Sunday

Advent Sermon Series: Looking for Life in the Right Places

December 1- John 1: 1-5, 16-18; Psalm 33: 1-14; "Looking for Life... Heaven-made"

-First Sunday of Advent; Celebration of the Lord's Supper; Thanksgiving Weekend

PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Want to join some others for a short time of prayer for the church, our community and the world? It couldn't be easier. Join us in the **Prayer Room** on the **4th Sunday of November** (right after 10 AM service) for **Prayer After Worship**.



Special Worship Services

ALL SAINT'S DAY SUNDAY

On **November 3**, our worship service will include a couple additions because it is **All Saint's Day Sunday**. During the service we will project pictures of some of the important men and women of faith that have impacted our faith and have gone before us, we will highlight a few of these people of faith during worship, and spend some time in prayer thanking God for the impact they made in our lives. We hope you can make it.



VETERAN'S DAY SUNDAY

On **November 10**, we will take time to recognize the veterans of the church and pray for all of our veterans. We will also be honoring our oldest war veteran in the church, Mr. Tommy Meek. We hope you will join us for this special time of recognition and prayer.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE WITH SANDY PLAINS

This year our annual **Thanksgiving Service with Sandy Plains** will be held here **at Union Church**. Join us at **7 PM** on **November 24** for worship and a time of food and fellowship that will follow! What a wonderful time to connect with another congregation, to remember all that we have to be thankful for, and to worship God together!

Opportunities to Give & Mission

5 CENT A MEAL

This month, our 5 Cent a meal special offering will be used to support our **Blessing Box** next to Forestview High School. If you are able, we invite you bring a little extra to give on **November 3**.

FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP ZOOM PRAYER

November's 30-minute **Zoom Prayer Call** with Jim Truesdale and **Frontier Fellowship** will be at **8 PM** on **November 21**. You can join this meeting at church or by using your home computer and registering with the following link:

<https://frontierfellowship.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkdCrpz4tHtSBKp98WjZWHHOt1fbKHWgB>

You can also meet at the church at 8PM on November 21 for the group zoom call.



BINGO

Join us for BINGO at Terrace Ridge on **Thursday, November 21st** at **3 PM**. You are sure to receive many blessings from this outreach event!

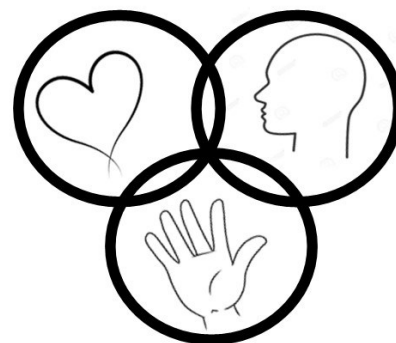
Stewardship

WHAT WOULD JESUS HAVE ME DO?

Do you remember the song, “There’s a Hole in My Bucket?” The song goes back and forth between husband and wife, Henry and Liza. Henry tells Liza there’s a hole in his bucket. Liza tells him to fix it. Henry wants to know how. Liza tells him how. Back and forth they go. But in the end it turns out that to wet the stone to sharpen the ax to cut the straw to fix the hole in the bucket, Henry will need his bucket... but there’s a hole in the bucket! It’s a silly song. Why doesn’t Henry just use a bowl for the water (or buy a new bucket).

But the song says something very true about our walk with God. If there is a hole in part our discipleship, everything about our walk with God suffers. November is stewardship month. But asking someone to “give” to the church is pointless if a person has a hole in their “spiritual bucket.” For example, if you don’t “know” enough about who God is, why would you even think giving to the body of Christ is important? If you don’t have a close relationship with God, why would you ever trust him and give generously? And if you are not very actively serving God, why would you serve him through your giving?

But the opposite is true as well. The more we know about who God is (with our head), the more we will want to grow close to God (with our heart) and serve him (with our hands). The closer we grow to God (hearts), the more we will want to study God’s Word (head) and be his hands and feet (hands). And the more share our faith with others (hands), the more we would be required to trust God for his help (heart) and guidance (head). And when all 3 of these areas work in sync... when there isn’t a hole in our bucket... it simply makes sense for us to give easily and freely from all that God has given us.



This stewardship season, Finance Committee asks you to consider where “the hole” in your spiritual bucket might be. Do you have gaps of knowledge or fail to study of God’s word as much as you should (head), do you have an inconsistent prayer life or have you grown stagnant in your worship of God (heart), or are there areas of life where you fail to truly be God’s hands and feet (hands)? What the biggest hole in your bucket? On **November 24, Stewardship Sunday**, as we turn in stewardship cards let us also commit to fix those holes in our buckets, dear Henry!

Prayers for the Community & Beyond

Close-by...

- Continued prayers for those impacted by Helene.
- Prayers for our Veterans. Prayers of thanksgiving for their sacrifice and selflessness. Prayers for healing and for help for those who have struggled returning from service. Prayers for those currently away from home.
- Prayers for those who the holidays bring pain as they remember those they’ve lost or experience loneliness.
- Prayers for these families in these neighborhoods: Nolen Farm, Rosegate, Cramer Woods. Pray that their families are built on the foundation of Christ.

... & Beyond

- Those in Vietnam and Philippines suffering due to Tropical storm Trami.
- Prayers for peace: Congo, Russia/Ukraine, Iran/Palestine/Israel, Haiti, Sudan, and Syria.
- Frontier Fellowship’s work in Pakistan: There has been a surge of violence in recent months as blasphemy laws are used to push out Christians and repress activists opposed to human right violations.
- The Bible Society has now translated the Bible into over 74 languages in India. Prayers for J.P. and L.P, as they wrap up 30 years of Bible Translation as missionaries in India.

Church Updates & Going On's



BOOK CHICKS

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, November 18th, at 6:30 PM.**

UNION ENSEMBLE

During the month of November the **Union Ensemble** will meet on **November 3** and **November 17**. Hope you can be there! We will be digging in deep with this year's Christmas music!



HAPPY YEARS

There will not be a Happy Years gathering in November. Instead the Happy Years Club will be meeting in December at the Villa Roma Restaurant for lunch. Everyone regardless of age is invited to the lunch and will be responsible for the cost of their meal. The date and time will be announced soon. Plan to attend and bring a friend! If you have any other questions contact Kathy Kytle.

MEN OF THE CHURCH MEETING & DINNER

The next Men of the Church Planning meeting will be at **8 AM** on **November 10th!**

Also, the **Men of the church** will be meeting at the church on **November 12 at 6 PM** for dinner **and fellowship**. This is not a church business meeting! It's an opportunity for the men to hang out and enjoy some hotdogs and hamburgers together! Come one and all!



MAN OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

Our dinner to celebrate our **2023 Man of the Year** will be on **Saturday, November 9th**. Everyone is invited to attend as we celebrate and honor him.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There is a **Congregational Meeting** scheduled **immediately following worship on November 17**. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect new church officers & the 2025 Nominating Committee. We will also be voting on whether to change our administrative manual to allow more flexibility to the session clerk position. The new wording would allow the yearly elected clerk to be either a current member of Session or a non-voting elder of the church currently not serving on Session.



YOUTH LUNCHEON

The Older Youth are hosting a luncheon on Sunday, November 10th right after worship. The menu will be chicken tenders, mac and cheese, green beans, oriental slaw, and rolls. The money raised from this event will go to help fund youth activities! We hope you will plan to join us that day!

PRESBYTERY PRAYER CALENDAR & PRAYER CONCERNS

Fletcher
P.O. Box 493
Newland, NC 28657
fairviewpresbyy@bellsouth.net

Forest City First
P.O. Box 181
Forest City, NC 28043
firstpresch.fc@fpc-franklin.org

Franklin First
26 Church Street
Franklin, NC 28734
churchoffice@fpc-franklin.org

Gastonia First
1621 East Garrison Boulevard
Gastonia, NC 28054
jchilders@fpcgastonia.org

Glen Alpine
101 Horse Shoe Lane
Morganton, NC 28065

- We continue prayers for the Rev. Beth Newman, pastor of Byson 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.





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Sundays 9AM Sunday School</p>					1	2
<p>3 2:30 PM SOC</p>	<p>4 11 AM Golden Girls 6 PM YTF 7PM Soul Sisters 7 PM Men's Bible</p>	<p>5 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Building and Grounds</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 6 PM Women's Council</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 6 PM Man of the Year Dinner</p>
<p>10 8 AM MOC 2:30 PM W&S</p>	<p>11 7 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>12 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Men's Dinner</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 11 AM Congregation Meeting 2:30 PM Session Meeting</p>	<p>18 6:30 PM Book Chicks 7 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>19 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 3 PM Bingo 8 PM FF Prayer Zoom call</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 11 AM Prayer after Worship 7 PM Thanksgiving Service</p>	<p>25 7 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>26 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 4 PM Final Christmas Decorating</p>	<p>30</p>

HP

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

Email: someone@example.com

Non-Profit Organization

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Permit No. 8

Return Service Requested

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

November 9
November 24

Man of the Year Dinner
Thanksgiving Day Service