A New Year’s Prayer

Dear Lord,
As a new year begins,
we come to You and ask for Your blessing.
We pray that You would
give us joy to fill our days,
peace to fill our hearts, and love to fill our lives.
Thank You for the plans
You have for us in this new year.
We wait in anticipation to see all You will do!

Amen.

“For I know the plans I have for your,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Church Office is closed on Friday, January 1, in observance of the New Year.

Friday Game Nights will continue in January on Fridays, January 1, 15, and 29, at 5:30 p.m. in either The Old Pine Center or Dutch Meeting Hall practicing social distancing.

Pastor Heidi Punt will be out of the office from Monday, December 28-Friday, January 1.
From the Pastor...A New Years Inventory!

Well, it is that time of the year again in the Punt Household – the time of year when I go through all my closets and with every best intention in my heart, decide what to keep, give away or discard. Let me just put a disclaimer out there right now; this whole purging program often ends up in 4\textsuperscript{th} pile being created, best described as the “hide away pile”… just in case I may need it someday for something, or simply because I just do not wish to deal with said item. It’s seems while my intentions are good and pure, the follow through requires improvement. My intention is to take inventory of the stuff I really have, clear the clutter and evaluate its purpose.

The New Year offers this wonderful opportunity to unburden, start fresh and move forward with zeal and enthusiasm not only in our physical environment but our emotional and spiritual lives too. The Apostle Paul wrote to the congregation in Colossians, with a similar intent. They had been holding onto traditions and practices that were not Christ-centered, distracting them from the mission at hand, resulting in friction and conflict on various levels. Obviously the words he chose were a little different than the ones I just used but ultimately it all boils down to…“whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men…you are serving the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:23-24)

Dear Union Family this is what we will cling to this year – whatever we do, we will do because we are serving the Lord! This may require us to do some inventory of what are we doing, why are we doing and who is doing…? In some ways the season of COVID has provided some of this already to be happening naturally. We have been creative and fluid, adjusting how we do ministry in an attempt to keep everyone healthy and yet we did not stop worship, mission or service to others. Thank you.

As we look forward to ministry in 2021, I anticipate ministry and life at Union to grow in strength. I anticipate this because I know that “nothing is impossible for God!” The Gospel of Luke shares how Elizabeth (beyond child-bearing age) and Mary (a virgin) were able to bear children. I also believe that God has called, gathered and placed each of us here into this church family because he knows who we are. We all bring with us our own skill levels, our own stories. These individual aspects of what makes us who we are, are the very resources that God wants us to use as we evaluate our purpose.

The inventory of what we actually have is the beginning point of defining how we do ministry or even what ministry we should be doing. Consider this: if you have a group of people gifted with the ability to do construction work but do not necessarily have the gift of music, would you ask them to lead a music ministry? No! You would probably look at an opportunity to serve the Lord by taking care of the church property and facility, plan small mission projects that require building a ramp or scenes for various programs…You work with what you have and then empower, equip and energize on that.

So, as you enter into this New Year consider your spiritual journey and faith formation, take time to fill in your Time & Talent Sheets, attend the Bible Study opportunities provided and Worship regularly. 

Happy New Year ‘21! 

Pastor Heidi
During the month of January, the congregation will be mailed 2021 Time & Talent Forms and Experiencing the Joy of Generosity Commitment Form to fill out. Those who have filled out the information will not be receiving this mailing.

This is an opportunity to take inventory of the gifts God has given you and volunteering to participate where those gifts best serve. This will allow those preparing and scheduling activities for 2021 to plug you in.

Presently we have received 41 Time & Talent forms turned in. We have received 26 Experiencing the Joy of Generosity commitment forms out of 119 giving households.

During the week of January 3, the beautiful DECORATIONS from the CHRISTMAS SEASON will be taken down, packed carefully, and stored for another year. There is much work to be done and everyone is encouraged to come and help complete the task. Please contact Cheryl Klutz, Deena Lanning, or Karen Morgan if you can help.

Executive Committee will meet Tuesday, January 5, at 5:30 p.m. to prepare for the Church Council meeting on Sunday, January 10.

Worship & Music Committee will meet Tuesday, January 5, at 6:30 p.m.

The Gift of Time

Time is one of the most precious gifts that you can give to anyone, yet one of the most challenging.

When my aunt was in a nursing home, she seemed to feel guilty when she received visits and attention because in her words, “I didn’t do it for others when I could have.”

Her words became a challenge for me to do things for others while I am able. What about you, while you can?

If you have gifts of compassion, comforting, listening, and confidentiality, might you be willing to share those gifts with ones who can no longer worship with us?

In an effort to assure that all of our members receive the care and attention that they should have and that we are called to give the Lay Ministry Team invites you to our next meeting on Thursday, January 14, at 3:00 p.m. to discuss how you might be a part of this ministry. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to bless our members with special needs.

There are a variety of ways to serve, some post-COVID and some presently. Examples are: visiting in homes; visiting nursing facilities; hospital visits; surgical waiting; sharing communion; phone calls; sending cards; and delivering Sunday bulletins and Dvd’s.

Being a part of this ministry is a blessing and a privilege. The rewards you receive far outweigh the time that you give.

Love and Prayers, Deena Lanning, UELC Lay Minister

Give them the gift of Time.
Confirmation Class will meet on Wednesdays (January 6, 13, and 27) at 6:00 p.m.

Those who participated in the Live Nativity will meet on Wednesday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. to provide feedback.

Union’s Church Staff a Christmas Dinner out enjoying great food and fellowship on Friday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Outback Steakhouse.

Church Council will meet on Sunday, January 10, at 3:00 p.m. in the Dutch Meeting Hall to discuss church business.

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School is a wonderful time to be with your friends and to make new ones in a smaller setting where you can connect the Word of God to your daily life, learn of God’s love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and grow in faith together. Sunday School meets at 9:30 AM, and there are age appropriate classes for children, teens, and adults alike.

During COVID-19 the Sunday School Teachers will take turns teaching classrooms for all ages.

Sunday Morning
Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m.

January 3 Called to Proclaim - Deuteronomy 8:1-11; Luke 4; Luke 4:14-22a


January 17 Called in Authority - Psalm 103:1-14; Mark 2:1-12

January 24 Called for the World’s Belief - 1 Timothy 2:1-7a; John 17:14-24


Our Quest Youth are invited to participate in a Zoom Meeting every Sunday afternoons at 5:00 p.m. (Occasionally a Sunday will be skipped.)
Good Timers

Thursday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m.

Good Timers will meet in January on Thursday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m.

There has been a change in the January program, so please read carefully!! Our program will be “Stump Your Neighbor” then “Show and Tell.” Please bring with you an item (or items) that you may have inherited from your parents or grandparents, or even something that you yourself used to use and don’t use anymore – something that is NOT commonly used today. We will put all these items out for a guessing game, and then each person will “show and tell” about the item(s). You may bring more than one if you wish. So check around the house for those items that you think will stump your neighbor . . . let’s plan on having a lot of fun.

Due to COVID-19, we will not yet go out for lunch, but be patient, that day is coming!!

See you January 14 at 10:00 a.m. – weather permitting!!

Lay Ministers will meet Thursday, January 14, at 3:00 p.m.

Pastor Heidi will be in Haiti from Saturday, January 16-Saturday, January 23.

All organizations, committees, groups, and individuals who are to turn in reports for the ANNUAL YEARBOOK REPORT, please do so by Sunday, January 17. This is a very important document in reflecting the life of Union’s for the past year and for planning activities for the coming year. We want to get it out to the members of the congregation as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

In January, the church office will begin working on the 2021 Church Yearbook. If you have any changes in your primary contact information (phone, address, email, etc.) please contact the church office as soon as possible. Thank you!

During this period of COVID-19, it is important to keep up with spiritual disciplines like Bible reading, prayer, and giving. Tithes and offerings may be given Online (https://ulcsalisbury.org/give-online/). You may also drop off, place in Sundays’ offering basket, or mail checks payable to Union Lutheran Church to 4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146. Thank you for your faithfulness in all these areas!

2021 Offering Envelopes are available to pick up in the Sanctuary. Please pick up offering envelopes of family members or friends that you plan to visit with.
We need YOUR help! Our Funeral Feeding Groups A and B are in need of financial assistance to purchase food (due to COVID-19 restrictions) to serve funeral meals as well as providing for the Advent meals.

Donations may be given to Group A (Faye Kesler/Sylvia Peeler) or Group B (Dawn Merrell/Cathy Painther). Thank you for offsetting the cost of food!

**Those Serving in January**

**Acolyte:** Adam Thompson

**Altar Guild, Communion Assistants, and Lay Readers:** Deena Lanning and Karen Morgan

**Ushers:** Phil and Linda Cauble, Mike and Brenda Cauble, and Frank and Dawn Merrell

**Church Council Counter:** Larry Barringer

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**Altar Flowers in January** are open for reservations. Please sign up in the Narthex and contact the church office.

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**Good Timers Officers for 2021**

President: Co-Chaired by Dawn and Frank Merrell and Doris Shepherd

Vice President: Sylvia Peeler

Secretary: Ruby Leazer

Treasurer: John Kesler

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**On behalf of the Good Timers Group, we would like to thank Faye Kesler for serving as President for many years. Thank you!**

Thank you to the Good Timers and everyone who donated coins and dollars to support the House of Hope. We collected $297.

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Thank you to the many members in 2020 who provided flowers and greenery during the year!

2021 Altar Flowers sign up sheet is available in the Narthex. Please fill out the dates that you would like to reserve. The church office will contact you the week of for bulletin wording.

It is your responsibility to pick up the liners and delivering before the worship services begin.

The purpose of providing is to beautify the Sanctuary throughout the year with flowers and plants, highlighting the seasons of the birth and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thank you to the many people who volunteered to decorate Union for the Advent and Christmas Season. Thank you for your dedication and sharing your talents with us!


**2021 Church Council Officers**

During the Church Council meeting on Sunday, December 6, the following were elected as 2021 Church Council Officers: Lynn Coughenour, President; Jennifer Painther Curlee, Vice President; Sonya Mulkey, Secretary; and Lucinda Fraley, Treasurer.

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**Worship Services Opportunities**

**Worship and Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.** This worship service will include spoken and sung liturgy, hymns included in the bulletin, masks are encouraged but not required, and Holy Communion celebrated as usual.

**Worship and Holy Communion at 12:15 p.m. Parking Lot Church Service with radio broadcast 103.9 FM.** This worship service is structured specifically for those who have high risk health and other concerns. Worship will include a brief spoken liturgy, music, Holy Communion will be celebrated with a sealed individual communion unit, and social distancing between cars.

During COVID-19 we are offering the following if you do not feel comfortable worshipping in person you can: 1. Worship online by visiting our webpage [link](https://ulcsalisbury.org/worship/). 2. Connect with us on Facebook Live [link](https://facebook.com/ulcsalisbury) 3. Request a worship DVD

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**RightNow Media**

RightNow Media is a non-profit organization that firmly believe the mission of the church matters. Everything is rooted in the belief that the church (people not buildings) can have a powerful impact on this world.

They serve over 10,000 churches each year and are like “Netflix for the church” because RightNow Media has a huge library with thousands of video sessions that people can access anytime, anywhere. Their creative team films and produces RightNow Media Originals featuring teaching from respected teachers and pastors. They also distribute video resources produced by over 100 other major Christian publishers and ministries.


If you haven’t signed up, please contact the church office (704) 636-5092 and we will send you an invitation.

Did you know that the Mission Team will mail out cards (get well, thinking of you, birthday, etc.) to members of the church? All you have to do is place your card and addressed envelope in the blue basket in the Narthex. The Mission Team will provide the postage and mail the card out for you.
NOTES OF THANKS...

Dear Union Evangelical Lutheran Church,

What a wonderful presentation on the birth of our Savior! Thanks to all the participants who presented the scenes leading to the birth of Jesus. This was a special night in our Christian celebration. Our 7 year old grandson really enjoyed each scene, wave, and smile from everyone. We also appreciated the gifts from the church and the Sonshine Kids just as the Wisemen brought gifts to baby Jesus. Thanks again to everyone who had any part in this special evening of celebration.

Wishing you all the beauty and blessings of this Holy Season, Merry Christmas!

Loretta and Grady Earnhardt
Amy Earnhardt and Cody Blackman

Dear Union Church Family,

What a surprise I received when I came in to work on December 21 to find a beautiful card and a generous financial gift from the church. Thank you!

It has been a pleasure to work at Union for almost a year. I have been blessed by you! I look forward to working with you in ministry in 2021!

In His Name,
Genevieve Baker
UELC Staff Support

Dear Union Evangelical Lutheran Church,

In this year of COVID-19, separation and isolation, as we celebrate the birth of “Emmanuel-God with us,” may you receive strength, courage and peace in life from the presence of Jesus Christ, born at Bethlehem, crucified and risen-to be with us always, even to the end of the age! Have a blessed Christmas!

Bishop Dan Selbo and NALC Staff

The family of Joan Troutman appreciate the visits from Pr. Heidi, especially giving her communion on Wednesday before she passed away on Friday. We appreciate all the prayers, phone calls, cards, food provided by the feeding group, and all your love and support from the congregation during our time of grief.

Paul and Lynn Coughenour
L. A. and Jimmie Earnhardt
Cynthia Reynolds
Jamie and Keely Troutman

Dear Union Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Words cannot express how grateful I am for your support and recognition of me on Sunday, December 20. I am honored to be working with and for my church!

Phil Cauble, Facility Manager

Dear Union Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you your words and gifts of appreciation. I look forward to our future music ministry together!

Tina Brown, Organist

Thank you to the many people who participated in the Great Commission Team’s sponsored Advent Project of collecting money for NALC Disaster Relief. In the next newsletter the amount and how many buckets were purchased will be printed.

On behalf of Union Evangelical Lutheran Church, thank you to the many volunteers and participants who made the Live Nativity Drive Thru a success!

We had 53 participants with 6 dogs to share the Christmas Story on Saturday, December 19. We had 25 cars to drive thru with 9 being visitors.

On Sunday, December 20, we had 77 participants with 2 dogs to share the Christmas Story with 35 cars to drive thru with 16 being visitors.
Because We Care Project for the Essie May Kiser Fox School was a huge success due to the generous donations from the congregation and Thrivent Aid Association.

We filled 40 bags with the following items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, sanitizer, pencil bag erasers, pencils, sticky notes, crayons, pencil sharpener, glue stick, Kleenex, notebook paper, books, teddy bear washcloth, candy canes, chips, fruit cups, applesauce, juice box, cheese crackers, apple, orange assorted candies, mac and cheese, and cookies.

We want to thank everyone that brought items in, monetary donations, and all the help packing, labeling, and delivering the bags. It is a joy working with our members to help in the community to spread love for each other.

Social Ministry Committee

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Union Evangelical Lutheran Church received a Certificate of Appreciation from Food for the Poor.

In this season of Christmas, and on behalf of Food For The Poor Family, we want to express our sincere appreciation for your sacrifice, support, and encouragement.

Knowing that you are by our side, faithfully helping those in need during an especially difficult and heartbreaking year, is truly a gift from God.

Thank you for bringing us all into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ through your joyful discipleship.

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“Because We Care”
(Purses ~ Personal Items ~ Prayer)

Fifteen purses that were filled with personal items and were prayed over have been shared.

Thank you to Doris Shepherd for donating the purses. Another thank you to the Mary Martha Union Women’s Group for supporting this outreach project!

Purses were donated to the Battered Women’s Shelter, the Community Care Clinic, and several homeless women.

Pastor Heidi and I were able to share the gift of giving with four homeless women. Their stories were heard, prayer was shared, and Joy was given! Each lady was thankful as they received their Purse!

To all that gave in anyway to support this outreach project—Thank You and God Bless You!

Led by God,
Judy Boyd

Because We Care Christmas Project Thank You

Because We Care Project for the Essie May Kiser Fox School was a huge success due to the generous donations from the congregation and Thrivent Aid Association. We filled 40 bags with the following items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, sanitizer, pencil bag erasers, pencils, sticky notes, crayons, pencil sharpener, glue stick, Kleenex, notebook paper, books, teddy bear washcloth, candy canes, chips, fruit cups, applesauce, juice box, cheese crackers, apple, orange assorted candies, mac and cheese, and cookies.

We want to thank everyone that brought items in, monetary donations, and all the help packing, labeling, and delivering the bags. It is a joy working with our members to help in the community to spread love for each other.

Social Ministry Committee
Honorariums and Memorials Gifts Given to the Glory of God during December

During the month of December the loose offering was given to the Social Ministry Fund, Gerald Bame Scholarship Fund, Building and Repair Fund, Lutheridge Scholarship Fund, and Mission Church/Special Fund.

A gift was received for the Haiti Fund to the glory of God in memory of those who have gone on to the church triumphant from:
   Scott and Jennifer Curlee

A gift was received for the Narthex Expansion Fund to the glory of God in memory of all our loved ones who have departed life on this earth to be with our Lord Jesus Christ in the year 2020 from:
   Faye Kesler

A gift was received for the Cemetery Fund in memory of Anna Rose Cauble from:
   Randy and Karen Cauble

A gift was received for the Cemetery Fund in memory of Rev. Bobby Cauble from:
   Ruth Goodman

A gift was received for the Social Ministry Fund in memory of Rev. Robert Cauble from:
   Charles and Becky Hartley

A gift was received for the Narthex Expansion Fund in memory of Dixie Rusher Cauble from:
   Deborah T. Rinehart

A gift was received for the Cemetery Fund in memory of Jeff Eagle from:
   Norman and Sarah Holshouser

A gift was received for the Organ Fund in memory of Jeff Eagle from:
   Franklin and Dawn Merrell

A gift was received for the Social Ministry Fund in memory of Jeff Eagle from:
   Charles and Becky Hartley

A gift was received for the Current Fund in memory of Betty Goodwin from:
   Linda Mitchell

A gift was received for the Narthex Expansion Fund in memory of Anna Harrelson from:
   Deborah T. Rinehart

A gift was received for the Social Ministry Fund in memory of Anna Harrelson from:
   Charles and Becky Hartley

A gift was received for the Social Ministry Fund in memory of Betty Herion from:
   Charles and Becky Hartley

A gift was received for the Narthex Expansion Fund in memory of Charles Huffman from:
   Thad and Sonya Mulkey

A gift was received for the Cemetery Fund in memory of Bob Kesler from:
   Faye Kesler

A gift was received for the Narthex Expansion Fund in memory of Eric Kesler from:
   Janet Overcash

A gift was received for the Narthex Expansion Fund in memory of Cecil Mulkey from:
   Thad and Sonya Mulkey

Gifts were received for the Narthex Expansion Fund in memory of Gene Stoner from:
   Donna and Melvin Lanning
   Janet Overcash
   Vivian Sprinkle
Gifts were received for the Narthex Expansion Fund in memory of Sarah Ruth Shepherd from:
   Janet Overcash
   Vivian Sprinkle

A gift was received for the Social Ministry Fund in memory of Jerry Thomas Taylor from:
   Charles and Becky Hartley

Gifts were received for the Cemetery Fund in memory of Joan Troutman from:
   Norman and Sarah Holshouser
   Wayne and Pam Vellines

A gift was received for the Jimmy Troutman Scholarship Fund in memory of Joan Troutman from:
   Deborah T. Rinehart

Gifts were received for the Music Fund in memory of Joan Troutman from:
   Joe and Phyllis Freeze
   Gary D. Morgan, CPA
   Robert and Sara Arey Propst

Gifts were received for the Narthex Expansion Fund in memory of Joan Troutman from:
   Paul and Lynn Coughenour
   Marlin and Mitzi Coughenour
   Spencer Coughenour
   Lauren Coughenour
   Joseph and Glenda Earnhardt
   Rick and Amy Fesperman
   Kay and Elvin Klapp
   Janie Lesley
   Betty M. Morgan
   Ronald and Janice Vellines

A gift was received for the Organ Fund in memory of Joan Troutman from:
   Franklin and Dawn Merrell

A gift was received for the Social Ministry Fund in memory of Joan Troutman from:
   Charles and Becky Hartley

Gifts were received for the Cemetery Fund in memory of Bobby Wilhelm from:
   Norman and Sarah Holshouser
   Sylvia Peeler

A gift was received for the Current Fund in memory of Bobby Wilhelm from:
   Tom Cole

A gift was received for the Gerald Bame Scholarship Fund in memory of Bobby Wilhelm from:
   Charles and Becky Hartley

Gifts were received for the Narthex Expansion Fund in memory of Bobby Wilhelm from:
   Thad and Sonya Mulkey
   Janet Overcash
   William and Doris Page
   Vivian Sprinkle

Our Love and Sympathy is extended to Vivian Sprinkle, on the death of her brother, and the Family of Gene Stoner in their time of grief. “Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1)

Our Love and Sympathy is extended to the Family of Bob Wilhelm in their time of grief. “Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).

Our Love and Sympathy is extended to the Family of Mary Brady in their time of grief. “Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).

On behalf of Union Lutheran Church, we would like to thank Franklin and Dawn Merrell for donating a file cabinet for the use of the church.
The Apostle Paul never failed to thank God earnestly for his loyal partners in ministry. He assured them that he was praying joyfully on their behalf:

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now ...” (Philippians 1:3-5, NIV)

In the same spirit I wish to thank all of you for your beautiful cards, personal gifts, unexpected generosity and partnership in ministry.

Pastor Heidi Punt
DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- On Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, an Advent Series “The Light Has Come” was held at 7:00 p.m. Week 1 Scripture: Matthew 3:1-3 Topic: John the Baptist, Preparation; Week 2 Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13 Topic: Procrastination, Readiness, Preparation, Christ’s Return; and Week 3 Scripture: Luke 2:1-21 Topic: Expectations, Sovereignty, Nativity.
- Also, on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Heidi provided an Advent Bible Study which echoed the theme of the 7:00 p.m. Advent Evening service.
- During the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 6, we recognized and thanked the following for faithfully serving God through your leadership on Church Council these past three years: Phil Cauble, Kay Morgan, and Pete Nguyen, and Cathy Kluttz Painther
- During the Church Council meeting on Sunday, December 6, the following were elected as 2021 Church Council Officers: Lynn Coughenour, President; Jennifer Painther Curlee, Vice President; Sonya Mulkey, Secretary; and Lucinda Fraley, Treasurer.
- The Good Timers were able to have their Christmas Program on Thursday, December 10, at 10:00 a.m. and followed COVID restrictions and regulations.
- On behalf of Union Evangelical Lutheran Church, thank you to the many volunteers and participants who made the Live Nativity Drive Thru a success! We had 53 participants with 6 dogs to share the Christmas Story on Saturday, December 19. We had 25 cars to drive thru with 9 being visitors. On Sunday, December 20, we had 77 participants with 2 dogs to share the Christmas Story with 35 cars to drive thru with 16 being visitors.
- On Thursday, December 24, a Bible Study was held at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and a traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was held at 8:00 p.m.
Good Timers  
Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in The Old Pine Center  

The Good Timers met on Thursday, December 10, 2020 in the Old Pine Center for their monthly meeting with Faye Kesler, presiding. Devotions were given by Sylvia Peeler on “Be Kind and Passionate to One Another” and prayer.  

The October minutes were read and approved.  
We had 12 in attendance (10 members and 2 visitors, Phil Cauble and Pastor Heidi Punt).  
The door prize was won by Sylvia Peeler. The prettiest gift was won by Carol Miller. Offering received was $8.00.  
We are glad to have Carol Miller and Dickie Shue join the Good Timers group.  
We extend our condolences to Vivian Sprinkle on the death of her brother, Gene Stoner, and to the family and friends of Bob Wilhelm, a member of the Good Timers who died on December 10, 2020.  
Birthdays in December: Pat Kluttz (6)  
Wedding Anniversary: John and Nancy Kesler (5)  
Sick Report: Kathleen Agner, Larry Shepherd, Grace Morgan, and John Cauble (fall).  
Thanks goes to Faye Kesler, our outgoing president on her many years serving in this position.  
Officers for 2021:  
President: Co-Chaired by Dawn and Frank Merrell and Doris Shepherd  
Vice President: Sylvia Peeler  
Secretary: Ruby Leazer  
Treasurer: John Kesler  
The program today was given by Dawn Merrell. First, we played a game of left and right using the gifts which we brought to the meeting. Next, Dawn gave a little history on the harp after which she played several Christmas songs: “Lo, How a Rose Is Blooming,” “What Child Is This,” “The First Noel” (an English hymn with a refrain), “Away in a Manger”, and closing with “Silent Night.” Dawn said it takes only 8 fingers to play the harp and about the different colors of strings. There are 47 different notes.  
Our program in January 2021 will be given by Pastor Heidi.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Faye Kesler, President  
Ruby Leazer, Secretary
The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, November 15th following the Worship Service.

Pastor Heidi opened the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer.

The ushers handed out ballots for the election of new Council members (Nominees: Larry Barringer, Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Janice Goodman, Steve Hutchens, Matt Miller, and Nikki Nguyen). Lynn thanked the outgoing Council Members: Pete Nguyen, Kay Morgan, Phil Cauble, and Cathy Painther. After no additional nominations were given from the floor, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. The motion was unanimously approved.

The ushers handed out ballots for adopting and approving the 2021 Ministry Support Plan. Dwight Miller went over the Proposed 2021 Ministry Support Plan which was approved by the Finance Committee and Church Council. After no questions were given, the congregation voted.

The ushers handed out ballots for election of Delegates.

Nominations for the NALC Convocation in Corpus Christi, TX in August, 2021 were: Lynn Coughenour, Mary Hutchens, and Nikki Nguyen. There was a motion and second to close nominations. The motion was unanimously approved.

Nominations for Carolinas Mission Region tentatively in May in NC or SC were Lynn Coughenour and Mary Hutchens. There was a motion and second to close nominations. The motion was unanimously approved.

Nominations for Piedmont-East Mission District in August were Judy Boyd and Lynn Coughenour. There was a motion and second to close nominations. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ballots were handed out for approval of the 2020 Ratification of NALC Constitutional Amendments.

A motion was made by Don Davis and seconded by Brad Huffman to adjourn the meeting. The November 15th Congregational Meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sonya Mulkey, Secretary
The Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, October 18th at 2:00 p.m. in the Old Pine Center. Members attending were: Lynn Coughenour, Cathy Kluttz Painther, Sonya Mulkey, Brad Huffman, Pete Nguyen, Don Davis, Lucinda Fraley, Kay Morgan, Jennifer Painther Curlee, Ron Vellines, and Pastor Heidi Punt. Phil Cauble was absent. Lucinda Fraley left following the Treasurer’s Report.

Cathy Kluttz Painther opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

**ADOPT AGENDA**
The item “Pastor’s Report” was removed from the agenda.

A motion was made by Kay Morgan and seconded by Lucinda Fraley to adopt the amended agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

**COUNCIL MINUTES**
The Council Minutes from the September 27th meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Pete Nguyen and seconded by Don Davis to approve the minutes as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**
A motion was made by Brad Huffman and seconded by Don Davis to approve the September, 2020 Treasurer’s Report as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Kay Morgan and seconded by Brad Huffman to close out the Playground Fund and to move the $369.34 balance to the Youth Fund. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lucinda Fraley presented the 2021 Proposed Ministry Support Plan.

A motion was made by Brad Huffman and seconded by Don Davis to approve the 2021 Proposed Ministry Support Plan which will be voted on at the November 15th Congregational Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

**MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS**
None.

**SOCIAL MINISTRY FUND**
Balance - $2,875.00

**CEMETERY FUND:** Don Davis
Balance – $2,244.95
PRESIDENT’S REPORT:  Lynn Coughenour
Kay Morgan will provide devotions at the December Council Meeting.
Pete Nguyen will count money for the month of November.
Cathy Painther will count money for the month of December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY:  Don Davis
None.

SOCIAL MINISTRY:  Cathy Kluttz Painther
Ongoing Christmas Project

EVANGELISM/MISSION:  Don Davis
None.

YOUTH:  Pete Nguyen
Youth and their families will meet at the pond area following Worship on November 8th to enjoy lunch, devotions, and social time.

STEWARDSHIP/LONG RANGE PLANNING:  Brad Huffman
Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st at 6:30 p.m.

PROPERTY:  Phil Cauble
Workday scheduled for Saturday, October 24th at 8:00 a.m. to clean up indoors and outdoors.

The entryway to the Dutch Meeting Hall will be replaced with waterproof vinyl. An anonymous donor is contributing $2,000.00 towards this project to cover the excess amount over the cap that was previously approved.

A suggestion was made to add a handrail on the left side coming out of the Educational Building.

WORSHIP & MUSIC:  Jennifer Painther Curlee
Planning for Live Nativity Drive-Thru around the Cemetery in December.
There will be Wednesday Evening Meals and Services during Advent.
The Christmas Eve Service will be at 8:00 p.m.
There will not be a Community Thanksgiving Eve Service this year.
NEW BUSINESS:
2021 Council Nominees for the November 15th ballot are:
   Larry Barringer
   Nikki Nguyen
   Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt
   Janice Goodman
   Steve Hutchens
   Matt Miller

A motion was made by Kay Morgan and seconded by Don Davis to approve these names for the Council Ballot. The motion was unanimously approved.

Installation of new Council members will be Sunday, December 6th with a Council lunch meeting following the Worship Service.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be November 15th for the following items:
   Approve 2021 Ministry Support Plan
   Elect 4 Council Members
   Elect Congregational representatives for Piedmont East Mission District, Carolinas Mission Region normally in May, and NALC Convocation in Corpus Christi, TX in August
   Ratification NALC recommendations approved at NALC Convocation

The Annual Council Retreat will be January 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:
Pastor Heidi’s Installation will be October 25th at 3:00 p.m. with a reception following the service.

Will advertise for a Part-Time Music Director immediately.

A motion was made by Don Davis and seconded by Jennifer Painther Curlee to designate the Finance Committee to establish the process for counting and depositing offerings.

Council had a discussion on holidays for the office to be closed.

PARISH STAFF/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Lynn Coughenour
The Executive Committee will meet Thursday, December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. in Pastor Heidi’s office.
The next Congregational Council meeting will be Sunday, December 6\textsuperscript{th} following Worship in the Old Pine Center.

The October 18th Congregational Council Meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

These Minutes are for informational purposes and will be approved at the December Meeting.

\textit{Respectfully Submitted,}  
Sonya Mulkey, Secretary
For I know THE PLANS I have for you declares the Lord.
Plans to **Prosper You** and not to harm you.
Plans to give you **HOPE** and a **FUTURE**.

Jeremiah 29:11
Bobby James Wilhelm, 92, of Salisbury passed away on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at The Meadows of Rockwell. He was born in Salisbury on August 18, 1928 to William Albert and Ina Brown Wilhelm. A Faith resident then, he was a graduate of Granite Quarry High School and worked for Cannon Mills before entering the U.S. Army during the Korean War. In the Army, Bobby worked with a message truck near the battle front.

Following military service, in 1956 Bob married Ruth Goodman, who preceded him in death in 2002. During their marriage they enjoyed extensive travel together. During a lengthy working life, Bobby was employed as a nursing assistant at the V.A. Hospital for 28 years and then spent 18 years delivering medical equipment to patient homes for Rowan Medical. Bob found a happy church home and many friends in later years at Union Lutheran Church, where he served in a variety of capacities and greatly enjoyed the senior citizens’ activities. Bob’s avocations included salt water fishing, gardening, canning, cooking, baking yeast rolls, and sharing the yield of each with others.

In addition to his parents and wife Ruth, Bob is preceded in death by his brother Billy Brown Wilhelm of Faith.

His sister, LaNell Wilhelm Yandle, of Suffolk, VA survives him. Bob’s living family also includes several nephews, a niece and a number of great and great-great nieces and nephews.

Burial with military rites has taken place at Rowan Memorial Park and further services are incomplete.

Memorials may be made to Union Lutheran Church, 4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146.

The Meadows of Rockwell, Trellis Hospice Care, and Powles Staton Funeral Home of Rockwell have been quite helpful to the Wilhelm and Yandle families.

Online condolences may be made at www.powlesfuneralhome.com.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Bobby James Wilhelm, please visit our Tribute Store.
Obituary written by Judy Boyd

Bob you have taken your journey through life and now you are experiencing the joy of being with your Creator.

You planted so many memories to so many people. For me I treasure how you loved your Country, Church, Your Bible, Family, Friends, and a dog named Gizmo!

As a Veteran – the damage that frostbite did to your legs was a reminder of your days in the military, yet you were happy to serve your country.

Your faith had nothing to do with a Church Building or denomination. It was based on the written words of the Bible. You were faithful to Union Lutheran Church and gave of yourself in countless ways.

Why am I sharing these thoughts? Because when someone leaves imprints on your heart – you want to share their story.

Bob was not the kind to boast about what he did for others. He just did what God led him to do.

Even while being in a Nursing Home – Bob helped others. Helping people in wheelchairs to the dining hall and back to their rooms.

Thank you, Bob, for all the encouraging words, your kindness, and most of all thank you for the many prayers and words of faith you shared with me.

Led by God,
Judy Boyd
PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER…

**Nursing Home Residents** - Brenda Mahaley, Pat & Wayne Miller, Ruth Monroe, and Jane Peeler, (Autumn Care), Jean Ray (Brookdale), Grace Morgan (The Laurels, Room 307B – cards are appreciated), and Betty Denker (Trinity Oaks, Apt. 123B)

**Homebound Members** - Rachel Earnhardt, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Zarah Plyler, Billy Waller, and Michael Walton


**Continual Prayer** - Nancy Ballew (mother of Kat Clifton), Evonne Batten (mother of Lisa Morgan), Yvette Bates (coworker of Karen Barringer), Martha Boger and Family (friends of Jennifer and Scott Curlee), Vanna Calloway (friend of Kat Clifton), Arnold Cauble, Ophelia Curlee (sister-in-law of Grace Morgan), Karen DeMunbrun (niece of Grace Morgan), June Fraley, Sylvia Fraley, Sally Honeycutt (sister of Janie Lesley), Teresa Kesler, Edna McCollough (friend of Jennifer & Scott Curlee), David Mitchell (friend of Pete Nguyen), Della Morgan (mother of Pam Vellines), Dusty Morgan Family (Dusty, Sr., Lisa, Felisaty, and Dusty, Jr.), Hong Nguyen (mother of Pete Nguyen), John Oddie, Jr. (brother of Ruby Leazer and Ruth Myers), Steven and Malynda Peeler, Steve Pless (friend of Pete Nguyen), Larry Shepherd, Jamie Troutman (nephew of Lynn Coughenour), and Union Fire Department #76

*Remember in Prayer List Note: We strive to list the prayer requests and names correctly. Please let us know if a correction is needed or you would like a name added/or returned to the list. If there is a name that can be removed, please contact the church office with that information as well. In an effort to keep the list current, we will update/remove prayer requests on a monthly basis, with the exception of known prolonged/ongoing issues. Thank you!*
Don’t worry about anything: instead pray about everything.

Philippians 4:6
Who can participate?
Everyone, members and community, is invited to participate. There is no fee to participate.

Any questions?
Please contact Pastor Heidi Punt at 704.636.5092 if you have any questions.

Book of Acts
The book of Acts is a narrative of lives being transformed – and the way in which these lives actively made a difference in the world, changing not only their generation but all generations after that.

A group of fear-filled, self-doubting and embarrassed group of ordinary people become the most irrepressible go-getters, preaching with complete conviction – and at great personal risk – the "mighty acts of God."

This book is very relevant for us today because the same power that breathed into, equipped, empowered, and propelled these plain and humble people is a dynamically alive and purposefully active in our world and lives, too.

God himself is present in and with us to the glory of his kingdom, for the whole world.

Topics such as faith, church, evangelization, discipleship and identity in the Holy Spirit will surface throughout our lessons.
Why do this?
1. “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” (Psalm 119:105)
3. “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” (Isaiah 40:8)

Prerequisites:
- None. It is for the experienced and unexperienced.
- Open to congregation and community.
- Cost is free: donations will however be accepted.

Class Details:
- Class Days and Times: Tuesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday Mornings at 10:00 a.m. Weekly attendance of either of the times or days is encouraged.
- Homework: None
- Length: 45-50 minutes
- Every participant will receive: Bible tabs (to assist in finding books of the Bible easily) and a notebook with weekly study/class notes.

What do we need?
1. A heart for Jesus!
2. Willingness to grow in faith and knowledge of God’s Word.
3. Your Bible (if you would like assistance with this please let Pastor Heidi know)

ULC Bible 101 Course 101

An extraordinary experience with God’s Word!

Name:_____________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________
Email: ______________________________________
Mailing Address: __________________________
__________________________________________

Beginning When?

Union Evangelical Lutheran Church will begin the Bible 101 Course 101 on January 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Deadline to register is Sunday, January 10.
### January Calendar – dates/times subject to change

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<td>Feast of the Epiphany JD Peeler</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Genevieve Baker, UELC Staff Support</td>
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<td>22 Devin Maxwell</td>
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<td>Cathy Klutz Painther</td>
<td>25 LA Earnhardt</td>
<td>26 Danielle Eagle</td>
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<td>28 Lindsay Eagle Jeff Holshouser Kay Lyons</td>
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<td>Allison Miller</td>
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**January Anniversaries:**

January 5 LA and Jimmie Earnhardt
January 27 Norman and Sarah Holshouser