



JUNE 2018

The Union Press

“To know Him and make Him known”

A LETTER FROM YOUR SESSION

UNION VOTES TO LEAVE PCUSA

At a congregational meeting held after the morning service on May 20, 2018 a ballot was taken on whether or not Union Presbyterian Church would seek dismissal from The Presbyterian Church USA. The vote was the culmination of a tumultuous 5-year ordeal started in 2013 under the previous Minister, David Clark and carried on under Reverend Szabo. In 2016 Union's Session decided to terminate the study. There were many hard feelings that the congregation had not been given an opportunity to vote on the decision and a number of members left the church. In December of 2017 at a vote to make Reverend Szabo the permanent minister, the vote failed to reach the majority % desired by Rev. Szabo and the Session. Consequently, the entire Session resigned in January 2018. At a congregational meeting in 2018 an entire new 6-member Session was elected. This current Session, in an effort to put the divisions behind us and move forward united, decided to put the vote to the congregation. They pledged that however the vote went, they would remain on as the Session and guide the congregation onward as best they could. To meet the requirements of Presbytery, first a congregational meeting was held to vote on whether to reopen the study on dismissal. 74.8% of the members voting gave approval to reopen the study. Three more congregational meetings were held where ECO (Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians), EPC (Evangelical Presbyterian Church) and PCUSA gave presentations on their policies and philosophies and took questions from our members. PCUSA requires that any church seeking dismissal from them MUST move to another

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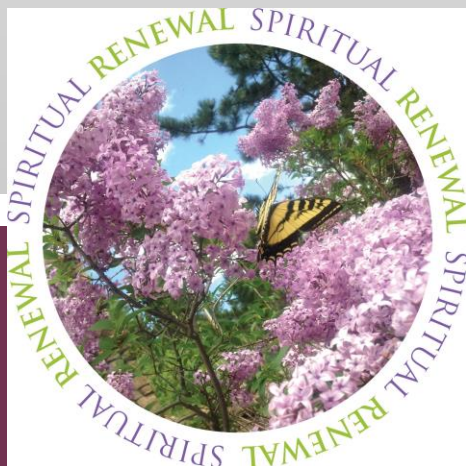
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REMINDER:
Deadline for Newsletter
Articles Is JUNE 17th.

SESSION LETTER CONTINUED

Presbyterian denomination. The next step therefore was a congregational meeting at which we would choose between ECO and EPC. At that meeting, a vote of 49-7 was in favor of EPC. This finished all the requirements of PCUSA and Donegal Presbytery for Union to vote on whether or not they would like to be dismissed from PCUSA and a congregational meeting was called and advertised for May 20, 2018. That meeting was presided over by Erin Cox-Holmes and Michael Wilson from Donegal Presbytery. It was noted that a quorum was present and ballots were distributed to official active members of the church. The moderators explained the ballot and asked for any questions. The only question asked concerned the payment that would be required for the church to pay to Donegal Presbytery for dismissal. The answer was \$25,000.00, the amount agreed upon several years back following audits and agreements between presbytery and the session at that time. Next, ballots were distributed to 58 members who proceeded to vote. The ballots were collected and counted by 4 members of session plus two congregation members plus Reverend Wilson. Of the 58 ballots cast there were 48 to “Leave Presbytery”, 8 to stay as we were and 2 “to abstain”. It had been explained beforehand that an abstain vote would count as a “NO”, therefore the final vote was 48 to leave and 10 to stay. This was 82.7% to leave which was more than the minimum 75% required by Presbytery for dismissal. The moderators declared the vote official and reported that if Union completes the rest of the requirements of the Dismissal Contract that it will be approved by Presbytery. There will be a process that we will be guided by to complete that and also for final acceptance by EPC. It is the sincere desire and prayer of the Session that we all move forward as a united group in the best interests of Union Presbyterian Church to do the Lords work here on Earth. We desire your prayers and guidance.



SESSION HAPPENINGS

The Session met on April 11, 2018 with Reverend Dr. Michael Wilson of Donegal Presbytery serving as moderator. All six Session members were present.

A discussion was held concerning who would be available for hospital visits. Reverends Mr. and Mrs. Brondyke are both available if needed. They would get reimbursement. Session and Deacons are also available.

We discussed having a ballot at the ECO presentation to get a feel for the congregation's opinion on resuming "Passing of the Peace". (It was overwhelmingly approved to restart with possible changes during flu season).

We requested from Presbytery that we not have to pay "Vacancy Dues" during the period that we do not have a minister. (This has been approved)

Marty Greenleaf and Ken Beiler are working on a budget to have in place for next year. We are currently operating month to month without one as the changes in how we are currently operating makes it nearly impossible to budget based on previous years. As we get a better feel for what our monthly giving and expenses look like we will be better able to formulate a spending plan.

Session approved having a patriotic 4th of July concert again this year. Bob Trimble has agreed to play and we will narrow down a date between June 30th and July 8th. Marty will put invitation articles in the Advertiser and Chronicle again. (It will be Sunday, July 1st at 7 PM)

A discussion was held concerning the Congregational meeting where we will choose between EPC and ECO. It will be a written ballot with a simple majority deciding. It was agreed to allow absentee ballots in sealed envelopes with a signature on the outside of the envelope. (EPC won 49-7)

As Rev Szabo has accepted another position, the remaining balance of his 3-month separation salary will be refunded.

The trustees reported on "Church Cleanup Day" (It went well, thanks for all the help!!) and that they are progressing through the replacement of the many non-working emergency lights. They are replacing batteries and bulbs, or as appropriate, the entire assembly.

Reverend Wilson was asked to check into the necessity of the "Reversion Clause" that presbytery is asking us to agree to, should we pursue dismissal. Simply stated, this is a clause that they are asking us to put in the dismissal agreement whereby if we leave PCUSA and go to EPC and then later decide we would like to be independent, we instead revert to control of PCUSA. They claim it is in the PCUSA bylaws. We feel it is an unreasonable requirement.

FINANCIAL REPORT

April Giving: \$12,761 (Jan, Feb & March averaged \$9,000)

Operational expenses: \$6,152 (Keep in mind that a full-time minister would add about \$6,000/ mo.)

BLANKET SUNDAY

Many thanks to all who generously gave so others may have a blanket, maybe their only possession. Scripture tells us "In as much as you did it unto one of these you did it unto me". Last Sunday's offering was **\$695**. Glory to God!



We are setting up an email system to provide updates on church happenings, dates, etc. similar to the electronic prayer chain. This would be used to remind you of important dates, events, weather closings and other appropriate items. We already have many emails, but certainly not all. If you want to be part of it, send an email with your name requesting to be on it to upc@epix.net. We will keep all emails private. If you get an email and want removed from the list, tell us that too. We may also try to set up a phone text system, so if you don't have email but can get texts, call Julie at 717.529.2000 on Tuesday or Thursday and give your cell number. And don't worry, if you don't text or email, we will still mail important announcements and put cancellations on TV.

Mark Your Calendars for the annual Summer Picnic!

At the CHURCH on Sunday, July 29, 2018

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship



4th OF JULY ORGAN CONCERT AT UNION!

Fourth of July Patriotic Organ Concert, Sunday night, July 1st at 7 pm. A rousing mix of patriotic, classical, showtunes and sing-a-longs featuring our wonderful organist Bob Trimble on our magnificent almost 90-year-old pipe organ. The community is invited.



Strawberry Social

VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER!

If you like Strawberries, Ice cream, Cake, BBQ and a great variety of other items, mark June 15, 2018 at 5 pm. on your calendar. This activity is for you, all your friends, and people you don't know. Invite everyone you can think of and let's have a great time of fun and fellowship! Looking forward to meeting you there. So Long!



LET'S HAVE MORE FELLOWSHIP!!

To enable our attendees to have more fellowship time together on Sundays, we are enhancing the "Time of Fellowship"! Starting June 3rd, come join us in the Cafe` at 9:30 for fellowship together before the Church service and enjoy a pastry and a cup of coffee.

JUNE 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June Bible Study Lesson: Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:16 ~					1	2
3 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship – Rev. Brondyke	4 7:00 Trustees	5 6:30 Girl Scouts	6 9:00 Art Class	7	8	9
10 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship – Elaine Swinehart	11 1:00 Circle 1, 2 7:00 Circle #3	12 1:30 Deacons 6:30 Girl Scouts	13 9:00 Art Class	14	15	16
17 Father's Day 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship – Elaine Swinehart	18 1:00 Circle 1, 2 7:00 Circle #3	19 6:30 Girl Scouts	20 9:00 Art Class 7:00 Session	21	22	23
24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 Worship – – Tom Chase	25	26 6:30 Girl Scouts	27 9:00 Art Class	28	29	30



LECTIONARY PASSAGES

June 3rd - 9th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

June 10th – 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15);
Psalm 138:1-8; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1;
Mark 3:20-35

June 17th – 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20;
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

June 24th – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49;
Or alternate 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16;
Psalm 9:9-20; Or alternate Psalm 133;
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

THANK YOU

Union Church Family,

I want to thank you for helping me celebrate my 100th birthday, for the many beautiful cards and for attending my drop-in party. ~Hazel Shoemaker

Union Church Family,

I just want to thank everyone for their concern and prayers when I was hospitalized. Also, the beautiful cards you sent. They were appreciated very much. ~Marian Weicksel

Happy Birthday!



- 1 Sandra Reyburn
- 2 Milton Whiteside, Jr.
Susan Hastings
- 4 Jessica Jackson
- 6 Vicki Greenleaf
- 8 Sarah Kelley
Chase Carter Wade
- 10 Shirley Winters
Susan Shoemaker
- 11 Megan Adams
Sandra Glackin
Kelsie Stoner
- 13 Matt Croyle
- 14 Justin Harrington
- 16 Shawn Hastings
Tabatha Hastings
- 17 Andrew Carpenter
Mark Wrigley
Alan Joseph (AJ) Miller
- 18 Terry Slodki
- 21 Rev. John Ferguson
- 22 Louise Jackson
Kaila Farron
- 24 Jeff Foulk
Tristan Murray
- 27 Heather Mullins
- 28 Drew Supplee
Kristine Supplee
- 29 Richard Croyle

JUNE FLOWERS & GREETERS

Flowers

Greeters

3 Glen & Marian Weicksel
10 Dwight & Cheryl Wallace
17 (Still Available)
24 Bill & Trudy Bard

3 Carol Oswald
10 Milt & Joan Whiteside
17 Pat DiPaola & Charlotte Stoner
24 Marty & Judy Greenleaf

FOOD BANK

Things we need...

Tomato Soup-large can; Boxed
Potatoes; Tuna-large can;
Pudding-large; Peanut Butter-large
jar; Jelly-large jar

Union Presbyterian Church
5637 Street Road,
Kirkwood, PA 17536

On a Lane in Spring

John Clare (1793-1864)

A little lane - the brook runs close beside,
And spangles in the sunshine, while the fish glide swiftly by;
And hedges leafing with the green springtide;
From out their greenery the old birds fly,
And chirp and whistle in the morning sun;
The pilewort glitters 'neath the pale blue sky,
The little robin has its nest begun
The grass-green linnets round the bushes fly.
How mild the spring comes in! the daisy buds

