

Announcements

June 9, 2019



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www.UnityFortMill.org

SHARING OUR STORIES OF FAITH: Sunday school opportunity for adults and youth. This summer, we will hear the faith stories of a variety of different Unity members, groups, and families. In his book, *Remembering Your Story*, Richard Morgan says, “Remembering our stories is not just for our own benefit; it is a sacred responsibility to hand on our values and faith to coming generations.” He believes that “Every life is a unique, invaluable story”, and that “God speaks to us in our stories.” He also says that “Remembering our stories creates community and a future.” The report from our recent congregational Mission Study highlights that building community amongst congregation members is needed. By hearing the faith stories of a variety of people in our congregation, participants will get to know each other on a deeper level and meet others they have not previously known at all, while growing in their faith and learning about new ways to live out their faith in their everyday lives. Children ages 6 and under are welcome in the nursery during Sunday school. Older children may attend the program in the Fellowship Hall. Coloring sheets will be available at tables. **Today’s speakers are Adam & Elizabeth Smith.** Next Sunday’s speakers will be guests from Hiland Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA; on June 23rd, Babylon Marketplace; and on June 30th, Jerry Brady will speak.

ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH are invited to participate in a special Women’s Chorus at both services on Father’s Day, June 16th. We will have a brief rehearsal in the sanctuary following each service TODAY. Please contact Margaret Monroe at 803-547-5543 or mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org with any questions.

ALL MEN OF UNITY & THEIR GUESTS are invited to the monthly Men’s Ministry Breakfast, to be held on **Tuesday, June 11th, at 8:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. For more information about the Men’s Ministry Group and their many activities, contact Larry Terrell (larry.terrell@sbcglobal.net).

FAMILY CHOIR returns this July, and **YOU are invited** to sing! Each Sunday at the 11:00 a.m. worship service, we will have an intergenerational choir open to children (who are readers), youth, and adults. There will be a **Family Choir Preview Night on June 12th at 7:00** in the Choir Room. Come for a sneak peek of what we will sing during the Sundays of July. All are welcome!

SUMMER OF SERVICE: “The king will answer, ‘Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me.’” (Matthew 25:40). This summer, families at Unity are challenged to focus on Matthew 25:34-40. In this passage, Jesus reminds his followers to care for others, particularly those in need or forgotten by the world and that when they serve others, they are serving God. Each week there will be a challenge to complete with several suggestions for how that challenge can be completed. Families are encouraged to take a picture of themselves with Flat Jesus, completing the challenge for our Facebook page and bulletin board, so we can encourage others as they serve. Each week will offer the option to complete the challenge by praying, giving or acting. These are just suggestions; each family may interpret the challenge in a variety of ways. Sharing what we do is not to pat ourselves on the back or brag about our service, but to share ideas that others families may want to do as well. Pick up a Flat Jesus in the Narthex.

Summer of Service CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 9th: Serve those who are Homeless. Did You Know? The total number of people experiencing homelessness on one night in the U.S. in 2017 was 553,742 people. An estimated 328 people in the York County area were homeless in 2018. In 2016-2017 school year, it was estimated that York County had close to 200 homeless students enrolled; and in Mecklenburg County, over 3,800 students were homeless. **(continued on back)**

PRAY: for staff and volunteers at the Children's Attention Home who are providing a safe, stable home for homeless teens in York County.

GIVE: your time to the Children's Attention Home (<http://attentionhome.org/>), Pilgrims Inn (<https://pilgrimsinn.org/>), or another agency helping the homeless in our community; or sign up to help provide a meal, wash laundry, or play with the children when our church hosts Family Promise the week of July 14th.

ACT: Make Manna Bags. Manna Bags are bags of non-perishable food you can keep in your car to give to people that you see at stoplights or intersections who are hungry. Why the word Manna? The word comes from the Old Testament story of Moses. After their escape from slavery, the Israelites wandered in the desert and had no food to eat. God provided manna, a bread-like substance, for the Israelites to eat. Want to read more about this story? Check out Exodus 16 in the Old Testament. Items you might consider putting in a gallon-sized Ziploc bag to become a Manna Bag are: small cans of protein (Vienna sausages, tuna, etc. - openable without a can opener), bottled water, individually packaged granola bars, small cans of fruit (openable without can opener), small packaged sweets (small pack of Oreos, etc.), packages of peanut butter or cheese-filled crackers, sporks, napkins.

DECORATORS ARE NEEDED FOR VBS the week of June 17th-21st. Child care will be available Wednesday, June 19th and Friday, June 21st, from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm, and other days upon request. Contact Anna Gosney or Kate Haynes at VBS@UnityFortMill.org to volunteer.

UNITY WILL JOIN OTHER CHURCHES for the 2019 Habitat for Humanity of York County Faith Build. We will work on **Saturday, June 29th**, on a home being built for Carrie Caines and her family in Rock Hill. There is a job for volunteers of all skill levels, ages 16 years and older. Please contact Steve Hardy at stevehardy59@yahoo.com to sign up.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for *Grands Camp: Loving God's Creation*. Grandparents and grandchildren, ages 4 and up, will enjoy time together learning about and exploring God's creation through this new intergenerational camp opportunity **August 7th-9th from 9:00 am-12:00pm each day**. Invite your grandparents or grandchildren from out of town or from just down the street to join you for this exciting new adventure. Up to 2 grandchildren may attend with each grandparent. Have more grandchildren than that? Bring an additional grandparent, either related or surrogate, or contact Kathryn McGregor to find additional surrogate grandparents. **Don't have grandparents or grandchildren who can participate with you?** Email Kathryn McGregor to sign up to be a surrogate grandparent or grandchild for another member of our congregation. **Age for Grandchild Participants:** Please note that this camp is most appropriate for children ages 4 - elementary school. There will be a limited number of slots for middle school aged youth helpers. Please email Kathryn McGregor to inquire about youth helper slot openings. Don't miss out on exploring God's love for creation and our responsibility to care for God's creation with your grandparents or grandchildren through games, crafts, stories and more this summer. **Registration closes on June 10th**. Cost is \$30 per child. Register online at: https://secure.accessacs.com/access/eventlogin.aspx?id=oDdGqj4mlvO6jGIlzbTh9w==&site=92749&ReturnUrl=events%2fwz_people.aspx&ChurchID=5704&EventID=175871&sn=92749. For more information, contact Kathryn McGregor (KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org or 803-547-5543.)

ONLY ONE WEEK UNTIL SUMMER FUN BEGINS at Bethelwoods! Check out all the special camps available at www.bethelwoods.org, including their new Passport Camp! The Bethelwoods website has descriptions of all the camps being offered this summer, as well as a link to register. If you have any questions, give them a call at (803) 366-3722. Scholarships are available; just call or email (info@bethelwoods.org) to request an application.

***** add back for 8/4/19 *****

UPCOMING CONNECTIONS CLASSES: The classes are designed for people **new to our church** who may be considering becoming members. This class will provide information about the congregation, what it means to be a Presbyterian, opportunities for involvement, how to become a member, and other topics of interest and importance. It will also provide a great opportunity for you to meet some of the Unity staff and other church members.

- Fall Class: September 15th 12:00-3:00 pm; September 22nd at 10:00 am
- Winter Class: November 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 10:00 am

Pre-registration is required for the classes. To register or ask questions, contact Nancy Nutter (NNutter@UnityFortMill.org or 803-547-5543).