



Announcements

December 16, 2018

PO BOX 1267
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www.UnityFortMill.org

JOIN US DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR TODAY for a special presentation from our children's choirs. The Cherub and Junior Choirs will be singing their Advent and Christmas anthems. As they sing of God's promise realized in the Christ Child, may we find hope and encouragement. This brief program will be held in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. Coffee will be provided in the Preschool reception area.

FREQUENT UPDATES CAN BE FOUND regarding the fire of December 9th on Unity's website, unityfortmill.org, as well as Unity's Facebook page. We're working diligently to keep everyone informed. Below is part of a letter from Rev. Mark Diehl that was mailed to the congregation several days ago.

How can you help with the recovery process?

First, **your prayers:**

- that the shock and grief naturally resulting from this loss does not lead Unity to despair, but to trust and hope for the future because of our faith.
- that new possibilities can be perceived and embraced in this time.
- that our leadership will discern next steps and appropriate paths for recovery that reflect our vision for future ministry, our sense of call, and responsible stewardship of the resources that become available.
- that our mission partners displaced by the fire will continue their outreach in effective ways that address our community's needs.

Secondly, **your participation** in scheduled events for recovery will help, as well as your participation in the usual events of worship and study and ministry.

Thirdly, **your giving:**

- the regular budgeting needs of the congregation continue, and your faithful giving to the General Fund is more important than ever. Please do not divert funds that would go toward our annual budget to recovery funds.
- special gifts toward recovery efforts, over and above our annual budget, will be deeply appreciated. Gifts received for these purposes will be directed to our General Operating Reserve Fund (GORF Account #846200). These funds will be available for immediate use in clean up and restoration efforts, as well as longer term facility recovery and replacement. Please designate GORF for fire-related donations.

THE HOLY LAND TRIP MEETING has been postponed until further notice, due to current lack of meeting space on Unity's campus. Please contact Dan Rogers at 864-245-3122 for more information.

Youth Group is ON FOR TODAY: Both youth groups will have their regularly scheduled Christmas Party:

- 5:00-6:30 pm: Middle School Youth Group at the Leroy Springs Complex
- 6:00-7:45pm: High School Youth Group at the Leroy Springs Complex
- Dinner is provided
- **Youth Caroling next Sunday:** We will continue with our rescheduled event to go caroling next Sunday, December 23rd, from 1:00-3:00 pm. There will **NOT** be lunch provided.

THE LUNCH BUNCH covered dish luncheon which had been rescheduled for **TOMORROW** has been cancelled.

CALLING ALL grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, coaches and fun people! Children in Worship needs you! There is a need for more volunteers for our 8:45 am and 11:00 am services. We need storytellers, greeters, and helpers. Training is provided; paid in smiles and hugs. See the stories of the Bible come to life through the eyes of Unity's children. Come visit us in the

Preschool area to see what this wonderful program is all about. Questions or to volunteer: Contact Melissa Dye (CIW@unityfortmill.org.)

FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE: In order for your year-end contributions to be credited to 2018 giving, they must be delivered to the church office or dropped in an offering plate by December 31, 2018. Online transactions must occur before January 1st, and any contribution we receive via the U.S. Postal Service must be postmarked before January 1st.

A YOUTH GROUP REUNION for all college-age students will be held on **Thursday, December 27th, from 6:00–8:00 pm** in the Youth Wing. We will have a dinner of soup, bread, beverages, and desserts. This is a great chance to reminisce about youth group with youth and leaders who have served. Please RSVP by texting Lindsay (412) 215-8810 by **December 25th**.

A CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST will be held in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, December 30th, at 10:00 a.m.** Everyone is invited to bring any leftover holiday breakfast goodies to share; breakfast pastries and cereal will be provided by the church. There will be no Sunday school that morning. Please join us for a time of fellowship!

CARDS ARE A WONDERFUL WAY to express our Christian love and care for each other. What better way to show someone you care than sending a Christmas greeting through Unity's own *Christmas Post*. The mailboxes are located in the Narthex hallway. Guidelines and details can be found in this week's newsletter.

ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH are invited to a Snow-Tubing trip on **Saturday, January 26th**. We will travel to Hawk's Nest in Seven Devils, NC, for two sessions of snow-tubing, lunch, and lots of fun together. We will leave Unity at 9:00 a.m. and return to the church around 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$70 per person. Students should **sign up no later than January 13th** by using the link on Unity's website.

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTIONS for *Year of the Bible*:

- When the Lamb opens the seventh seal, John sees 7 angels with 7 trumpets standing before God (Revelation 8:1-2)
- Jonah explains that he fled to Tarshish because he knew that God was gracious, and therefore, he feared that God would forgive the people of Nineveh if they repented. (Jonah 3:10-4:2)

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS:

- In Micah we read that what God considers good – what the Lord requires of us – is essentially 3 things. What are they?
- Which chapter of what prophet is the source of the quotation used by Paul, "The righteous live by their faith?"

DO YOU KNOW THAT there are two (2) ways to be added to **Unity's Prayer Chain**, or to ask for prayer for family, friends, or neighbors? Email requests to Dannie Vaughn (vaughndl@comporium.net) or call Jerry Brady (803-547-7411).

REGISTER NOW FOR FAITH & SEXUALITY RETREAT AT BETHELWOODS for 5th-7th graders and their parents. The event is presented by Providence Presbytery's Education and Equipping Ministry Team and Bethelwoods. Led by Chaplain Nicole Newton, this overnight retreat is designed to open communication as your youth looks toward all the changes that are coming as she/he enters middle and high school. The goal is to help parents set these and future conversations around puberty, adolescence, and sexuality within the context of faith, and learn to share your values as you talk with your youth about these topics. The overnight retreat will be held **February 22nd - 23rd, 2019**; cost is \$100 per youth. Register online at <https://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessionDetail.aspx?idCamp=465&idSession=198271&campCode=bcc> Kathryn McGregor is on the planning team for this event and will be one of the chaperones. Please speak to Kathryn McGregor or Rev. Lindsay White for more information.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR PASSPORTkids! Camp for Summer 2019. Unity will take a group to PASSPORTkids! Camp at Montreat Conference Center June 30 - July 3, 2019. This fun-filled four-day, three-night camp is for children and youth who are currently in 3rd - 6th grade. Kathryn McGregor and other Unity adult chaperones will travel with the group to Montreat for camp. The cost is \$335. **A non-refundable registration deposit of \$100 is due by January 9th**. Register on the church website at: <http://unityfortmill.org/childrens-ministries>

SAVE THE DATE for our All-Church Read Kick-off on **February 10th**. Lynne Baab, author of the book, *Sabbath Keeping*, will preach at both worship services that day and speak at the Kick-off Event to be held at 4:00 pm that afternoon. The Adult Discipleship Ministry Team is looking for Small Group Leaders to facilitate discussion groups as participants read the book during Lent. If you are interested in serving as a small group leader or finding out more about what is involved, please contact Kathryn McGregor at 547-5543 or KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org.

Pastors:

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