

# Life at Unity

May 07, 2025



Since 1788...

*United in Christ's love,  
we glorify God through worship,  
nurture, and service to all people.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

As our church history reminds us:

By the year 2000, under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. R. Dan Holloway, Unity had entered a period of rapid and sustained growth. ... It was increasingly apparent that Unity's sanctuary would soon be struggling to accommodate its steadily expanding membership. A worship task force was formed to explore a number of options with the conclusion that a new sanctuary was the one preferred, and in 2003 the Sanctuary Feasibility Committee was formed to study related issues. In August, 2005, the committee submitted their final report to the Session indicating that it was time for Unity to move forward with plans for a new sanctuary.

In January, 2006, the Building Committee was formed with Bo Palmer and Steve Hardy elected as Co-Chairs. After much work and visionary planning, the WKWW Architectural Firm of Charlotte was chosen to design the new structure. Significant in the process, it was learned that the family property of Robert Bradford adjacent to the church would become available for purchase which a special gift from two church families made possible.

January, 2008, kicked off with a Capital Campaign led by Co-Chairs Robin Morris and Bill Hood. Pledge packets were distributed to the congregation and on May 18th a Commitment Service was held under a big tent on the Bradford property near the new sanctuary site. By June 1, commitments of \$2,575,221 had been received and a congregational vote was called to approve the building project in an amount up to \$5,855,000. An overwhelming 93% of the members voted in favor of building the new sanctuary.

Bagpipes rang out as ground was broken on Sunday, May 31, 2009, in a meaningful ceremony. Construction was completed in 14 months, and on Sunday, October 17, 2010, Unity's pastors led the congregation on a transitional walk from the old to the new sanctuary. The cross, Bibles and hymnals were among items the pastors and members carried with them to be used in the new worship space. On the following Sunday, October 24th, the first full worship service was held in the new sanctuary. Dedication Sunday followed on October 31st, and was a joyous day when various worship items such as the Bible, pulpit, cross, baptismal font, stained glass windows, and the pipe organ were dedicated to the glory of God. Unity's oldest members, Mary Millikin and Bill Bradford, were among those who participated in this service.

It is hard to imagine Unity Presbyterian Church without our sanctuary, choir room, and nursery/preschool. What was merely a dream 25 years ago is such a gift to our life, our ministry, and our community today. With so many gifts, large and small, over the last 17 years, the debt has finally been paid! Thanks be to God!

Our most recent quiet campaign to retire the debt was called "Imagine the Possibilities." What possibilities can you begin to imagine now that the sanctuary debt has been paid? What new ministries is God calling us to? What new possibilities will there be for us to serve, worship, and grow together? I look forward to hearing your thoughts and dreams, because I am sure God is not finished with us yet.

God bless,  
Matt

The deadline to submit items for the May 20th Newsletter is **Wednesday, May 14th.**

## PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that Unity has an email prayer chain? If you would like to receive prayer concerns or have a concern, please contact Dannie Vaughn at [vaughndl@comporium.net](mailto:vaughndl@comporium.net).

## PLEASE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED BY SESSION 4/28/2025

Alan & Mary Anderson

Doug Dracon

Megan Hannon

Eric & Kristin Hunsberger, with their children William, Zoe, & Ford

John & Chelsea Whitten, with their children Campbell & Margot

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(Closed on Fridays)

803.547.5543

[www.UnityFortMill.org](http://www.UnityFortMill.org)

## LATE MAY BIRTHDAYS

16 -- James Ennis; Katelyn Evans; Evelyn Hice; Elizabeth Leventis; Rick Shannon

17 -- Jennifer Estes; Kristain McCabe

18 -- Rad Hudson; Michelle Meyer; Seth Nordgren; Jackson Rozelle

19 -- Frank Miller; Chalmers Rogers; Rosie Wright

20 -- John Clark; Vickey Fulton; Liz Hood; Elliott Norman; Jan Norman; Jim Redden; Grey Young

21 -- Hunter Egnor; John Fulton; Alice Hart; Muriel Ryan; Alice White

22 -- Ashley Trueb

23 -- Gregory Louise Cook; Kate Dasher; Meredith Hattaway; Brenda Mullis; Alta Routh; Jackie Wall; Mackenzie Williams; Thomas Windell

24 -- Beth Anderson; Morgan Matinata; Patsy Surratt

25 -- Jordyn Friedman; Susan Hereford; Blakely Martin; Laura Sizemore

26 -- Frank Anderson

27 -- Georgia Kern

28 -- Margaret Gribble; Brandi Spratt; Jack Windell

29 -- Mary Anna Alessandro; Miranda Hopkins; Lana McDonald; Brenda Stewart

30 -- Mary Martin

31 -- Michelle Hoffman; Karen Wright

## SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND - APRIL 17-25, 2026



**SPIRITUAL  
PILGRIMAGE TO  
*Scotland***

RETREAT, RENEWAL, & PILGRIMAGE ARE SPIRITUAL PRACTICES AT THE HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRAVEL PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND IN THE SPRING OF 2026.

REGISTER BY MAY 21ST FOR EARLY BIRD PRICING



Retreat, Renewal, & Pilgrimage are spiritual practices at the heart of the Christian community. We invite you to participate in a travel pilgrimage to Scotland in the Spring of 2026. Such a journey encourages us to be more than tourists, intentionally engaging with what we see and do in holy places, with people we are bound to in this community of faith, while also learning about the faith of those who have gone before us. A few details for our trip:

- Trip leaders will be Matt Rich, Kathryn McGregor, and Jim Wallace (a native Scot and minister of the Church of Scotland who has led trips full-time for the last 10 years).
- The trip itinerary will include Edinburgh, Sterling, St. Andrews, the Scottish Highlands, Loch Ness, the Isle of Mull, and Iona with a combination of religious and historical sites.
- Cost (not including airfare):
  - \* \$4495 per/person if reserved by May 21st for double occupancy
  - \* \$4595 per/person if reserved by July 2nd for double occupancy
  - \* Single room accommodations are available at an additional \$1165/person
- Early Bird Registration nonrefundable deposit of \$200 is due by May 21st.

To register for the trip, the complete trip brochure, the payment schedule and more information, visit <https://unityfortmill.org/ministries/adults/spiritual-pilgrimage-to-scotland/>. Additional questions, please speak with Dr. Matt or Kathryn McGregor. We look forward to walking with you as we explore Unity's spiritual roots in Scotland as pilgrims together.

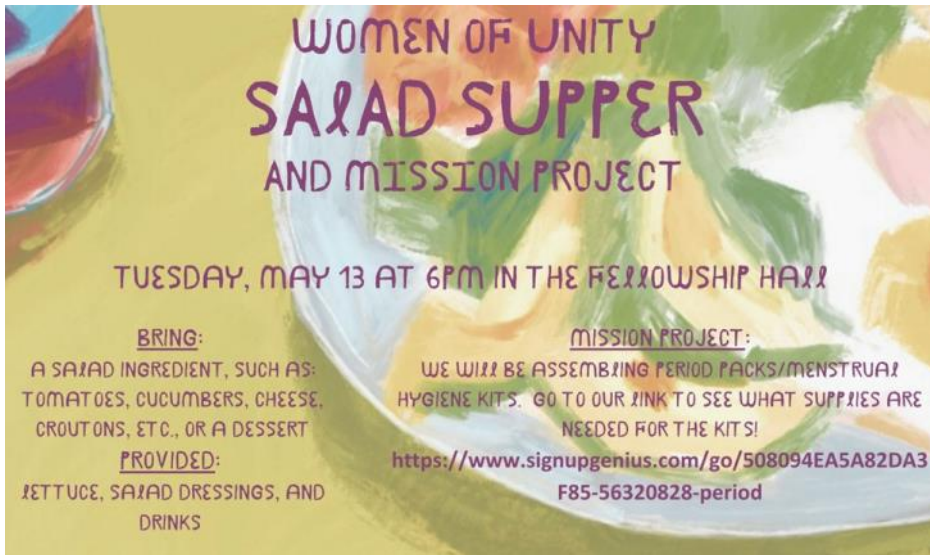
## MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

On **Sunday, May 11th**, Unity will receive the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina Mother's Day Offering. Since 1954, South Carolina Presbyterians have developed a long tradition of generously supporting this offering as a special way of remembering and caring for older adults. Presbyterian Communities operates six retirement communities across the state of SC. Donations received are used exclusively for those residents who, through no fault of their own, have outlived their financial resources and need assistance to remain in Presbyterian Communities. For more information or to donate, visit: <https://unityfortmill.org/give/special-offering/>.

MOTHER'S DAY  
OFFERING



## WOMEN OF UNITY SALAD SUPPER & MISSION PROJECT



All women of the church are invited to a salad supper and mission project on **Tuesday, May 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. Please bring a salad ingredient to share, such as tomatoes, cucumbers, cheese, croutons, etc., or a dessert. Lettuce, salad dressings, and drinks will be provided. Also, we will be assembling period packs/ menstrual hygiene kits as a mission project. Please go to our link to see what is needed! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094EA5A82DA3F85-56320828-period>.

## LUNCH BUNCH END OF YEAR PICNIC - MAY 21ST



It is hard to believe that the year has flown by so quickly, but here we are in May and looking forward to our end of year picnic! We will meet again this year at Allison Creek Park, 2499 Viesta Road, York, SC on **Wednesday, May 21st**. The shelter is very close to the parking lot and convenient to restrooms. If you have questions or need to sign up for a side, please call Joyce White at 803-548-4135. If you are driving to the park, plan on 20-25 minutes from the church. There is a \$1.00 fee, per car, at the entrance. The plans are to eat at 12:00 noon. Hot dogs and condiments are

included. Potato salad, beans, desserts, and desserts will be the sides. No need to bring anything, other than a chair so you can enjoy the sunshine and nice views. See you on the 21st!

## WELCOME TO UNITY COFFEE

Anyone interested in learning more about Unity is invited to join us on **Sunday, June 1st, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. This is an informal get-together during which we will share basic information about the congregation, our beliefs, answer any questions you may have and enjoy a cup of coffee. Children are welcome to join their parents, or they may attend Sunday school.



## MEN'S CHORUS

All men and young men of the church are invited to participate in a special Men's Chorus at both services on Mother's Day, May 11th. You can choose to sing at the service you normally attend – you don't have to commit to singing at both! We will sing a simple familiar hymn, and we will rehearse the morning of in the choir room: 8:15 for the early service, and 10:30 for the 11:00 service.

Please contact Margaret Monroe, Director of Music at [mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org](mailto:mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org) with any questions.

## HMT HEALTH TIP

### Spring Benefits Abound

“See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.” Song of Solomon 2: 11-13a NIV

As we jump into Spring, we find ourselves gardening and doing other yardwork. Remember, this counts as exercise! Other benefits include having visit time with neighbors, time to think about your favorite psalms as well as sing your favorite songs. You can also get that recommended daily dose of Vitamin D, but don't forget the sunscreen. Vitamin D helps our heart health, teeth, bones, muscles, brain function, mental health, and immune system. Enjoy this Spring in good health.

- Health Ministries Team



**HIGH SCHOOL HONDURAS TRIP INTEREST MEETING!**

Current 9th-11th graders are invited to join on **Sunday, May 18th at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall** to learn & discern about the possibility of a high school Honduras trip in February 2026! RSVP to Liz ([lcorsig@unityfortmill.org](mailto:lcorsig@unityfortmill.org)).

**UNITY'S DESIGN TEAM**, a sub-committee of Building and Grounds, is seeking the skills of electricians, artists, carpenters, seamstresses, upholsterers and designers, to periodically assist with enhancement projects around our campus. Whether these skills are professional or novice level, your expertise is welcomed. If you would like to learn more or lend a hand in these areas, please reach out to Krista Renken, at [renkenkrista@gmail.com](mailto:renkenkrista@gmail.com).

**STAY IN TOUCH**

Whether you are looking for a specific activity or the latest news and information on children, youth, and adults, visit us at . . .

Website: [www.UnityFortMill.org](http://www.UnityFortMill.org)

Instagram: [@UnityFortMill](https://www.instagram.com/UnityFortMill)

Facebook: [@UnityFortMill](https://www.facebook.com/UnityFortMill)

Be sure to "like" our page.

**UNITY YOUTH END OF YEAR PARTY!**

Our middle & high schoolers enjoyed a foam party, games, and Kona Ice on the front lawn to finish out the end of a great year of ministry together. We welcomed 5th graders into the youth group and considered how we will witness to the work of Jesus Christ in our lives this summer. How will we answer the question Jesus poses his disciples and to us: "Who do you say I am?" Join us this summer as we explore this question and grow in community together!



**COLLEGE DESSERT - TUESDAY, MAY 20TH**



**CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS & COLLEGE-AGED YOUNG ADULTS**

**College Dessert**



Hosted by

**Georgia, Gus, & HK Sharpless**

**7:00**  
PM

MAY  
**20**

RSVP to Liz Corsig (704-340-2171)

Address provided upon RSVP.

## LIZ CORSIG'S SUPERVISED MINISTRY

Did you know that our Director of Youth Ministry, Liz Corsig, is also a seminary student? Liz is working towards a dual degree at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. She will graduate in June of 2026 with a Master of Divinity (M. Div.) and a Master of Arts in Christian Education (MACE). Liz completed a 10-week internship last summer for her M. Div. degree in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Atrium Hospital in Charlotte. This spring, while working full time as our Director of Youth Ministry, Liz is completing her supervised ministry internship for the MACE degree here at Unity in children's ministry. Liz is planning and leading our Mission Camp at VBS in June for her internship project. She recruited the volunteers, has chosen the mission sites, will write and lead the Bible study each day, and is creating an at-home family reflection piece as well.



Kathryn McGregor is Liz's supervisor for this internship. She and Liz meet weekly to review her work and for Kathryn to provide insight and resources to assist Liz in her planning. In addition to planning and leading Mission Camp, Liz will be leading some children's times during worship and getting exposure to other parts of our children's ministry here at Unity so she can expand her faith formation experiences. She also has readings to do and is taking a class that guides her internship experience as well as a class on Worship. How can you support Liz in her continued studies? Please pray for Liz to find a balance between school, work, and her personal life during this season. Pray for her studies and her personal and spiritual growth. And if she asks you to help and you feel called to do so, please say yes! We are so fortunate to have Liz as a part of our staff. Thank you for supporting her while she completes her graduate programs.

## CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST ON GRADUATE SUNDAY!



Unity will honor our high school graduates on **Sunday, May 18th**. There will be a **Congregational Breakfast for the whole church at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**, and the graduates will be recognized during the 11:00 a.m. service. There is a table in the hall near the narthex, with booklets for members of the congregation to write words of encouragement, congratulations and maybe a favorite Bible verse. Please stop by and write

to our students and join us for breakfast on that special day.

## REGISTER NOW FOR GRANDS CAMP!

Grands Camp will be held Wednesday, July 23rd – Friday, 25th. Grands Camp provides a unique opportunity for intergenerational ministry. Grandparents and grandchildren, ages 4 – 5th grade will enjoy time together through games, crafts, stories, mission projects, LEGOS and more. 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 at [KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org](mailto:KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org) to sign up to be a surrogate grandparent or grandchild for another member of our congregation. Register here: <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NWYzZGRkZTUtMmFmMy00ZWl5LWE5YWUeYjIjMTAxNGVmYTQy>.



An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God's plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it.

So, when you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry, talk to one of our referral coordinators, Susan Mobley or Dave Johnson via email at

[Stephenministryreferrals@unityfortmill.org](mailto:Stephenministryreferrals@unityfortmill.org) or call Rev. Molly Spangler at the church office - 803-547-5543.

Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!

## UNITY MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

Did you know that Unity Presbyterian Church has a men's softball team in the Fort Mill Parks & Recreation Church Softball League? Yes we do! Our team plays both for fun and to make a run at the championship at the end of the season. We are recruiting both returning and new players for this year's team. All abilities are welcome (in emergency situations they even let the senior pastor play!), plus players get a cool Unity shirt. Games begin in June. Contact Sammy Pecarro ([samrpecarro21@yahoo.com](mailto:samrpecarro21@yahoo.com) or 803.571.2401) if you're interested in being a part of this year's team.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HONORARY LIFE MEMBER - DORIS DUNN



Each year the Women of Unity nominate and select an extraordinary woman to receive the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Member Award. As presented at the MDSF luncheon, the 2025 recipient of the Honorary Life Member award is Doris Dunn. Doris has been an active member of Unity Presbyterian for many years. She has volunteered or been elected to various committees and offices. Doris has served as a Deacon, Youth advisor, Circle Treasurer, Angel Tree Coordinator, Family Promise volunteer and is a member of the Wednesday Bible Study. She has served on the Christian Education, Congregational Care, MDSF Luncheon planning, Women of Unity Coordinating, and Worship Ministries teams.

Doris has been described as faithful, dependable, a humble servant, and dedicated to church service. Her faith in God is lived out in numerous ways at Unity and within her community. Doris is a true Christian

lady who is dedicated to church service. She is very organized, creative, supportive and her influence can be seen throughout the church and its members. Doris truly lives out the greatest commandments of loving God and loving others.

## “AUTO-DRAFT” GIVING vs. “ONLINE” GIVING

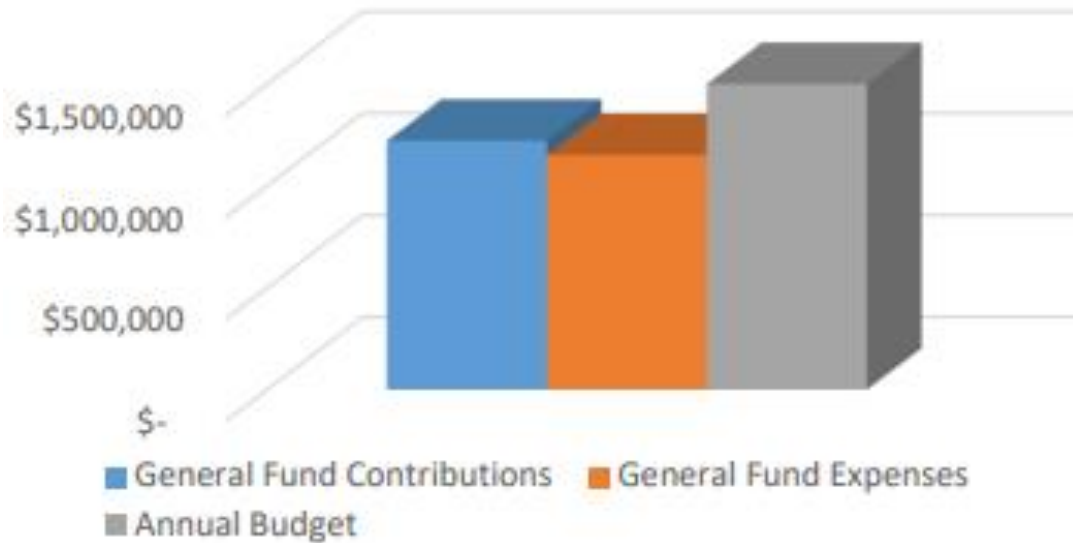
What is the difference between Unity's auto-draft giving from my bank account and online giving from my bank account?

**Auto-draft giving** is where your bank routing number and account number is given to Unity's financial office and we pull a set amount from that account on the 1st of the month and/or 15th of the month or quarterly.

**Online giving can be done in two ways:**

- **Online through your financial institution** – you set this up through your financial institution and they either send a paper check or, in some cases, deposits the funds directly into our bank account.
- **Online through Unity's Realm system** – you set this up through your Realm login and the funds are deposited into our bank account. This system does charge Unity a fee for the service.

## Contributions & Expenses July - March Compared with the Annual Budget



	Mar-25	Jul 1, 2024 through Mar 31, 2025	% of Annual Budget	5-Year Average
General Fund Contributions	\$ 138,112	\$ 1,222,025	74.7%	\$1,117,328
General Fund Expenses	160,610	1,151,480	70.4%	1,063,764
Annual Budget		1,636,321	100.0%	1,519,243

As you contemplate your legacy, please consider including Unity in your estate planning.

For more information on  
**“What’s Happening”** at  
 Unity, please visit...  
[www.unityfortmill.org/  
 whats-happening/](http://www.unityfortmill.org/whats-happening/)

Unity Presbyterian Church  
303 Tom Hall Street  
PO Box 1267  
Fort Mill, SC 29716-1267

[www.UnityFortMill.org](http://www.UnityFortMill.org)

## JOIN US SUNDAY

8:45 a.m.  
In-Person/Livestream  
Worship

11:00 a.m.  
In-Person/Livestream  
Worship

**Share Your  
Tithes and Offerings  
Online**



*Return Service Requested*

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Thank you for supporting God's ministry through Unity Presbyterian Church.