

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I am writing this note to you two days after returning from a trip to Augusta, GA to assist with recovery from Hurricane Helene and as Hurricane Milton bears down upon Florida. In the midst of these challenging days, many wonder what we as individuals and what we as the church can do to help. I hope that you will see the article in this newsletter, as well as information on the website and in the bulletin about how you can join Unity's response.

However, serving in Augusta on Monday provided me with several important reminders:

- 1. The kind of service that we want to provide may not always be the most helpful to those seeking to recover from a disaster. When I initially offered to organize a group to go to Augusta, I knew 70-80% of trees had fallen, so I thought chainsaws and yard equipment would be most helpful. And yet, the day before we went, we learned that a real need was to provide childcare for the children of two families, so their parents could begin cleaning out damaged rooms, take laundry to be washed, talk with insurance adjusters, and just have a brief break from the demands of parenting in the midst of a disaster. We did some cleanup and that was good and important work, but what was most needed was not necessarily what I planned to do.
- 2. Making connections and relationships provide a sense of hope. The church's pastor announced in worship on Sunday that we were bringing a team. It was a reminder that others cared about them and sought to help. Even for those whose houses we were not able to visit or who did not have work that we were equipped to do, a sense that someone cared made a difference. Being able to talk with and hear stories from those who had been affected by the storm allowed them to express their fears, their frustration, and their relief. Building those relationships makes a difference as opposed to just providing a momentary handout.
- 3. Disaster recovery is not a short-term commitment. Seeing the destruction these huge trees caused, driving for miles down a road with piles of logs and debris 15-20 feet high, navigating around and over power and utility lines, reminded me that efforts to help will be needed for months and years to come. As the next disaster strikes and the news crews move on to other stories, it is easy to forget. Also, the needs will change as some initial needs are met and new needs emerge. So, we seek to prioritize efforts that will last and the relationships that will sustain recovery work for long days ahead.

Thank you for your generosity, your care, and your impulse to help in both immediate and sustainable ways. It is inspiring to see Unity being the hands and feet of Christ in this moment, especially as you continue your generosity and care in so many other ways (like Sharing God's Bounty) for families in need in our own community.

See you Sunday! Matt



Since 1788... United in Christ's love, we glorify God through worship, nurture, and service to all people.

The <u>deadline to submit items</u> for the November 5th Newsletter is **Wednesday, October 30th.**

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 Instagram: @UnityFortMill Facebook: @UnityFortMill Be sure to "like" our page.

EARLY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 -- Nick Adams; Stephanie Nix; Finn Oakes; Caleb Wall

2 -- Ray Dellinger; Jody Elisha; Kris Kasik

4 -- James Gamble; Erika Teague; Falcon Woodward

5 -- Randi Sidwell

6 -- Sarah Egnor; Denise Fox; Thomas Spratt

7 -- Jack Beshers; Norah Beshers; Laura Bossert; Stephanie Gregory; Theresa Higgins; Tricia Oakes; Ella Oppel; Mike Ware

8 -- Becky Diak; Lucas Schuhmacher

9 -- Martha Broome; Liz Corsig; Austin Devaney; Bitsey Martin; Melissa Michael

10 -- Berkeley Cole; Chloe Dasher; Dave Fisher; Abby Lake; Jim Smith; Alex Sullivan

11 -- Nick Bunge; Brynne Fisher; Ellie Hattaway; Bill Hood; Ian Pearson; Banks Reigel; Violet Richardson; Claire Shaffer; Jacquelyn Wolfe

12 -- Kingsley Hart; Nicolas Litrenta; Charlie Veltri; Eli Whitesell

13 -- Brooks Bowers; David Neel; Elizabeth Smith; Tom Thomasson

14 -- Joanna Key; Scott Michael; Jamie Weller

15 -- Miller Hall

HURRICANE RESPONSE - GIVE. ACT. PRAY.

Recognizing there are immediate needs to be met and that recovery from natural disaster is a long, long process, the Outreach Ministry Team of Unity Presbyterian Church encourages our members to respond in three ways:

- **GIVE** Direct monetary donations to organizations committed to meeting immediate needs and long-term recovery. Often donations can be shared with local organizations that allow money and resources to begin rebuilding local economies.
 - **UNITY Youth BBQ Proceeds** On Saturday, October 26 at Youth BBQ pickup, all money raised from sales of and donations for desserts, baked goods and other items will be given to recovery efforts in Montreat and Black Mountain, NC.
 - **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** is on the ground responding to the many urgent needs following the destruction Hurricane Helene left in her path. <u>https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000169/</u>
 - Appalachia Service Project meeting immediate needs and mobilizing volunteers to serve with long term recovery efforts in counties affected by Helene. <u>https://asphome.org/helpafterhelene/</u>
 - Unity Presbyterian Church For those most comfortable giving through Unity's REALM system, visit <u>https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/_/form/give/default</u> and select Disaster Relief Fund.
- ACT In addition to monetary donations, hands on action makes a difference:
 - O Unity will be assembling 50 Cleanup Buckets for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on Sunday, November 10 after the 11 AM worship service. If you would like to donate items for the buckets, you can use this <u>Amazon Wish</u> <u>List (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/ISISWY4BKOSX2?ref_=wl_share</u>) and have items sent to the church. If you would like to purchase items on your own, please check the list for correct items and sizes as these are the only things we are able to include in the buckets.
 - We will be organizing **Work Trips**, both day long and overnight, to Augusta, GA; Spruce Pine, NC, and potentially additional locations as we learn of needs and projects. For those interested in participating, sign up via REALM by searching for "Hurricane" under serving opportunities. <u>Click here for instructions.</u>
- **PRAY** While "thoughts and prayers" are sometimes dismissed as an attempt to deflect actions, the thoughts and prayers of the faithful are an act which draws us closer to God and compels us to be at work in the world. May we pray without ceasing for God's providence and care.

With questions, ideas, suggestions, or other thoughts, please reach out to Dr. Matt, Pastor Molly, or a member of the Outreach Ministry Team.

SHARING GOD'S BOUNTY

During October, your support is needed as we begin our annual nonperishable food drive, Sharing God's Bounty, benefiting the Fort Mill Care Center. The Fort Mill Care Center will use our donated items to provide Thanksgiving meals for Fort Mill families. The items requested by the Care Center include the following: grits, pancake

mix, boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing, canned fruit, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, pie crust mix, pie fillings (cherry, pumpkin), and evaporated milk. Please bring an item or two any time you are on campus during October. Your donations can be added to the display down the hall from the Narthex or drop them in the donation boxes in the Fellowship Hall, Church Office, and Preschool Lobby. Thanks in advance for your support of this outreach ministry.



GC'S CLEAN-UP BUCKET'S ARE HELPING HURRICANE SURVIVORS



Last winter, the Growing Christians, our 4th and 5th graders, invited the congregation to help them collect items for clean-up buckets for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. With the congregation's support, the GCs put together more than 34 buckets full of cleaning supplies for those who have experienced a natural disaster. Each bucket contains between \$85-100 worth of cleaning supplies. We watched a video from PDA about a flood that occurred some time ago in Easter Kentucky.

We learned that flood waters can make a BIG MESS that needs to be cleaned up when the waters recede. The buckets we packed were sent through Charlotte Presbytery to a PDA warehouse so they can be distributed as soon as a disaster occurs. With all the flooding in Western NC and Eastern TN recently, we are sure the supplies in those buckets are assisting our neighbors in the mountains right now. How can you help hurricane survivors? Our congregation plans to assemble more clean-up buckets so they are always available when a need arises.

See the "Hurricane Response" article on Page 2 for ways to give/donate and how you can help assemble more Cleanup Buckets.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, October 27th at the 8:45 AM and 11 AM Worship Services, Unity will mark Reformation Day with a unique service using liturgy and prayers from the Protestant Reformers. It's also a day we are encouraging everyone to wear their Unity tartan or family tartans. We look forward to remembering our history and our challenge to be a "church reformed, always being reformed."

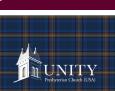
Lost n' Found

LOST & FOUND

Have you misplaced an item? It may be in our Lost & Found located in the hallway adjacent to the Sanctuary. Items remaining on October 21st will be donated to Goodwill.

SALE OF UNITY TARTAN ITEMS

As part of the 235th anniversary last year, Unity commissioned its own unique tartan and produced a variety of items for purchase. If you missed purchasing something last year or discovered you needed a new tie, bowtie, bag, coaster, or scarf, various items will be available for sale in the narthex after the 8:45 AM service and



before and after the 11 AM service on Sundays, Oct. 13th and 20th. Then be sure to wear your tartans for Reformation Sunday on Oct. 27th.

UNITY'S HISTORY - AN INTERACTIVE TIMELINE

Last year for Unity's 235th Anniversary, the History and Heritage Committee updated our history with an interactive timeline on the website. As we prepare for Reformation Sunday on October 27th, we encourage you to check out this great resource for the historic facts, dates, events, and personal stories: <u>https://unityfortmill.org/about-us/our-history/</u>

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed on Fridays) 803.547.5543 www.UnityFortMill.org



THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH ASKING FOR AND RECEIVING HELP!

Receiving help is embracing our humanness. We all go through difficult times and can benefit from the help of others. That doesn't make us weak, just human.

Receiving help shows respect and care for yourself! Support during difficult times is valuable and prevents us from neglecting our own needs.

If you feel that you need a Stephen Minister or know someone who might, please contact one of our referral coordinators, Susan Mobley or Dave Johnson, via email at <u>Stephenministryreferrals@unityf</u> <u>ortmill.org</u> or call Rev. Molly Spangler at 803-547-5543.

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 <u>vaughndl@comporium.net</u>.

LUNCH BUNCH - OCTOBER 30TH



Our next meeting is **Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 12:00 Noon**, so please mark your calendar! John Lewis will be back with us again to perform a variety of music for our enjoyment. It is always fun to greet old and new friends and get acquainted with new Unity members. Please bring your sandwich or salad for this entertaining afternoon. Drinks, chips, and desserts are provided. Hope to see you on the 30th!

SANCTUARY OPEN FOR PRAYER ON ELECTION DAY

In the midst of challenging and divisive days in our political world, at Unity Presbyterian Church we are convinced that God has called us to model a different and better way. As the theologian Karth Barth once wrote, "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world." Therefore, the sanctuary will be open on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5 from 8 AM to 6 PM if you would like to come for a moment of personal prayer. A church staff member or volunteer will be there to greet you and sample prayers will be provided. All are invited to clasp our hands in prayer on this important day in our nation.

ALL SAINTS DAY SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 3

The church has long marked All Saints Day on the Sunday closest to November 1. At both worship services on November 3rd we will remember All Saints with a special service of music, scripture, prayer, and communion. In this service of memory and hope, we will remember each of the members of Unity Presbyterian Church who have died in the past year as we both acknowledge the pain of loss and celebrate the good news of resurrection in which we stand. We hope you will be able to join in worship and in memory on this important day.

> PRESBYERTIAN WOMEN 2024 THANK OFFERING

All Women of Unity are invited to an evening of fellowship and dinner as we collect, present, and dedicate our Thank Offering

> Thursday, October 24 at 6pm Fellowship Hall

We will be providing a soup and salad dinner, complete with drink and dessert, and a program after

Our Thank Offering will go to the Fort Mill Care Center

2 Ways to donate:

Bring items to the Thank Offering dinner and program. October needs include pantry items: chicken/tuna, beans, boxed meals, soup, vegetables, fruits, jams, canned pasta, pancake mix and syrup, cereal Select items from the FMCC Amazon Wish list and purchase for delivery directly to the FMCC

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wis hlist/ls/24CY4MSG1VT39/ref=nav __wishlist_lists_1

CAMPFIRE THEOLOGY FOR YOUTH

Campfire Theology for youth continues this Sunday, October 20th. We will make s'mores around the fire pit, play some outdoor games, and explore common "Christian Cliches" in hopes of developing a deeper & more authentic understanding of God's story. Middle schoolers will gather from 4-5 PM and High Schoolers will gather from 5:15-6:15 PM in the Youth Wing.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PRAYER BREAKFAST

All high schoolers are invited to join for breakfast and devotion at **7:30 AM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday** of every month in the Youth Wing. Stop by for breakfast and a chance to explore God's word to us before the busyness of the day begins.

ANNUAL YOUTH BBQ FUNDRAISER



All are invited to stop by the Fellowship Hall between 10 AM -12 PM on Saturday, October 26th to pick-up your BBQ orders and purchase some sides and desserts. ALL funds raised from dessert sales will go to support Hurricane Helene recovery efforts in Montreat and Black Mountain, NC!

Sign-up at <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/</u>go/30E0D49AEAD28ABFD0-52150689unity#/) to make desserts and/or volunteer during pick-up! Contact Liz Corsig at <u>lcorsig@unityfortmill.org</u>with questions.

UNITY YOUTH HALLOWEEN PARTY

On Sunday, October 27th, all youth are invited to join from 4-5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a fun night of games and activities. We will also have a chance to serve our neighbors by helping to sort food collected during Sharing God's Bounty.

COLLEGE STUDENT CONTACT INFO

Parents of college students, please send your student's contact information to Dannie Vaughn (vaughndl@comporium.net) so they can receive care packages from Unity. Thanks!

For more information on **"What's Happening"** at Unity, please visit... <u>www.unityfortmill.org/</u> <u>whats-happening/</u>

"THE BIBLE AS IF FOR THE FIRST TIME"

This 6-week adult Sunday School class will meet Oct. 20 through November 24 at 10:00 a.m.

- Do you want to know the Bible better, but you don't know where to begin?
- Have you tried reading the Bible but found it overwhelming and hard to understand?
- Do you hold back from attending Bible studies or classes because you think you'll be embarrassed by your lack of Bible knowledge?

If you feel at all like that, this is the perfect class for you!

No prior Bible knowledge required. No embarrassing questions (although you can ask all the questions you wish). Just a solid introduction to how we got the Bible, the message of the Bible, and how to study the Bible on your own. Here's what we'll cover:

The Book (Weeks 1 and 2):

- Oct. 20 **"Meeting the Bible As If for the First Time"** (a very basic overview of the Bible: its purpose, structure, and types of literature; biblical translations and choosing a Bible for yourself)
- Oct. 27 **"How We Got the Bible"** (how the Bible was written, compiled, and transmitted from its day to ours)

The Message (Weeks 3 and 4):

- Nov. 3 **"The Old Testament in 7 Sentences"** (a summary of key events and themes in the Old Testament, including a timeline)
- Nov. 10 **"The New Testament in 7 Sentences"** (similar to the previous week, but looking at the central events and themes in the New Testament)

The Practice (Weeks 5 and 6):

- Nov. 17 **"How To Study the Bible for Yourself"** (an introduction to studying the Bible; foundational principles for interpretation; resources for further study)
- Nov. 24 **"How To Hear God in the Bible"** (the Bible is the Word of God and God speaks to his people through the Bible, but often we struggle with hearing God; we'll look at how we can hear God better in the Bible, as well as how the Bible gets misused) Led by retired pastor Steve Simon, who once had to use his Bible's Table of Contents to find the Gospel of John— true story! Come and share in the joy of learning about God's Word with us!



Come grow in your faith





CHILDREN

Birth-3 years - Rooms S103 & S104 4K/Kindergarten - Room M203 1st/2nd grade - Room M205 3rd - 5th grade - Room M208

YOUTH

6th & 7th grade - Room M106 Confirmation - Room M107 & Fellowship Hall High School - Room M108

ADULTS

As a Child - Room M312 Faith Connections - Historic Sanctuary Fellowship - Room M201 Gospel of Matthew - Room M210 Unity - Room M102







VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Volunteers are needed for Children's Ministry Team's Fall Family Fun Night on Friday, October 18th from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A free hot dog supper is included in your volunteering. We will have crafts, games, a mission project, and activities for children and their families. Volunteers are needed to help with food and to supervise and oversee each activity. Sign up to volunteer: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA9AF22A4FE3-51676629-volunteer</u> or sign up to donate items for our treat bag mission project to benefit The Children's Attention Home and Defend the Fatherless: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA9AF22A4FE3-51544078-fall#/





Did you know that October is Pastor Appreciation Month?

Unity is blessed with wonderful pastors leading and teaching us.

Thank you Matt, Molly, and Mark for all you do!

ENDOWMENT IMPACT: 235TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Nearly 350 of Unity's members and friends gathered to celebrate our 235th anniversary last October. Thanks to the Endowment Program, we were able to provide lunch to all in attendance. Unity has a long history of nurturing and supporting people within our congregation and across the globe. Your support to the Endowment Program creates a perpetual funding source for all sorts of opportunities to carry on that legacy.

Please consider an estate gift to Unity.

FEI: 57-0360709



FLOWER CALENDAR: ONLY TWO SPOTS LEFT FOR 2024



Would you like to honor a family member, friend, or a special group of people? Placing fresh flowers in the sanctuary to the glory of God is a perfect way to remember and celebrate a special person/s or occasion in your life. To sign up to place flowers in the Sanctuary on one of the available dates, visit the 2024 Flower Calendar Sign Up Genius website at https://unityfortmill.org/happenings/flower-calendar-2024/. Early sign-up is recommended to ensure the Sunday(s) of your choice.

SEARCH FOR DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

With the announcement of Jim Tyndall's retirement at the end of 2024, we are beginning the search for Unity's next Director of Operations. The Director of Operations is responsible for leading and overseeing the facilities, grounds, and technology that support the overall ministry of Unity Presbyterian Church. This management position is an exempt position regularly scheduled to work 40-hours per week during Monday through Friday. This position reports to Dr. Matt as Senior Pastor / Head of Staff and supervises facility support personnel and related contractors / vendors. If you are interested in learning more about the position or would like to recommend potential candidates, please reach out to Dr. Matt or visit https://unityfortmill.org/about-us/careers/.

COVENANT CONVERSATION EVENT FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

Everyone is invited to be a part of this meaningful conversation on Saturday, November 9th. As a part of the planning team, I hope you will take a look at all this conversation has to offer and put it on your calendar. It's an opportunity to learn and ask questions, to worship together and listen to stories we may not often get to hear. We are hoping for participation from all our South Carolina Presbyteries. You can register by using the QR code or by visiting <u>http://tinvurl.com/</u> <u>CovConSC</u>. If you have any questions about the event itself or how to register, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Rev. Molly Spangler, at mspangler@unityfortmill.org.



COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS

On Saturday, November 9, join Presbyterians from across South Carolina for "Making Space at the Table: Faithfully Responding to Gender and Sexuality" from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This Covenant Conversation will equip faith leaders and congregation members with resources for taking the next steps in navigating important conversations and creating more welcoming spaces for LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Saturday, November 9 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Shandon Presbyterian Church 607 Woodrow St Columbia, SC 29205



http://tinyurl.com/CovConSC

TONY DEHLER CHRISTMAS AUCTION: DECEMBER 2

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of dining, shopping, and fun! Hot dog dinner and Silent Auction starts at 5:30 p.m. Unity's very own auctioneers Ken Bickett and Joan Thomasson will begin the auction at 6:00 p.m. Get a head start on your holiday meals with home-baked breads, cakes, canned veggies, etc. Update your Christmas décor with framed art and wreaths. There may even be day excursions and weekend getaways offered. The possibilities are endless!





ADVENT: SAVE-THE-DATES

December 1 at 10AM - All-Church Advent Workshop
December 2 at 5:30 – Tony Dehler Christmas Auction
December 8 at 4:30-6:30PM - Congregational Caroling and Chili
December 10 at 7:00PM – Festival of Carols
December 14 at 10:00AM - Birthday Party for Jesus
December 15 at both morning worship services – Lessons and Carols
December 18 at 6:30PM – God With Us: A Blue Christmas Worship Service
December 24 Christmas Eve services:
11:00AM – Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service
4:00PM – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service With Communion
6:00PM - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service With Communion



DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

WHAT IS A DONOR ADVISED FUND?

A donor-advised fund (DAF), offers a unique giving opportunity. It is especially appealing to individuals who are interested in staying involved in the giving process.

It is like a charitable investment account, for the sole purpose of supporting charitable organizations you care about. When you contribute cash, securities or other assets to a donor-advised fund, you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. Then those funds can be invested for tax-free growth and you can recommend grants to virtually any IRS-qualified public charity, including churches.

HOW DOES A DONOR-ADVISED FUND WORK?

Make a tax-deductible donation

Donate cash, stocks or non-publicly traded assets such as private business interests, cryptocurrency and private company stock to be eligible for an immediate tax deduction. Appreciated assets may be deductible at the current fair market value and will bypass capital gains tax liability.

A contribution to a donor-advised fund is an irrevocable commitment to charity; the funds cannot be returned to the donor or any other individual or used for any purpose other than grant-making to charities.

Grow your donation, tax-free

Your donation can potentially grow over time with no tax consequences for you, making available even more money for charities. Most investment organizations have a variety of investment options from which you can recommend an investment strategy for your charitable dollars.

Support charities you love, now or over time

You can support virtually any IRS-qualified public charity with grant recommendations from the donor-advised fund-including Unity Presbyterian Church.

Easy, no cost way to change charitable beneficiaries

Although the assets in the DAF cannot be removed, you control their distribution during your lifetime and can name and change any residual balance without the help of an attorney, as you would with a will or a trust.

Your financial or tax advisor can help determine it this fits your financial situation.

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER SPONSOR A CHARITABLE DONATION MATCHING PROGRAM?

What are employee matching gift programs? Employee matching gift programs are corporate giving programs in which the company matches donations that employees made through payroll deductions to eligible nonprofit organizations. It's an easy way to double your charitable contributions.

How do I request a matching gift? Requesting a matching gift is normally a five-minute process which must be initiated by the donor. This is typically accomplished online via your employer's Human Resources or Payroll Department's website. Some employers still use a paper process. Your Human Resources department can assist you with understanding your employer's process.

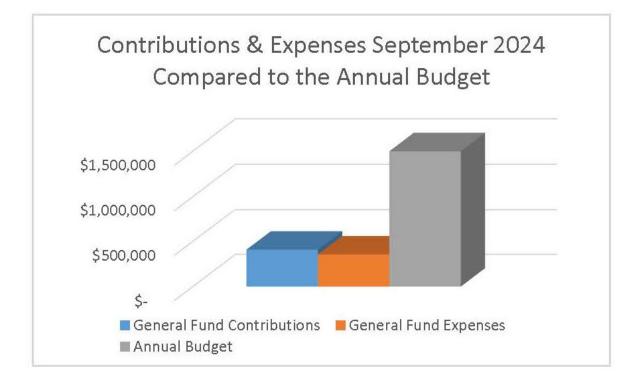
Your financial or tax advisor can help determine it this fits your financial situation.

2024-2025 BUDGET UPDATE

| | Jul 1, 2024 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------|-----------|
| | September 2024 | | through Sept 30, 2024 | | % of | | |
| | | | | | Annual | 5-Year Average | |
| | | | | | Budget | | |
| General Fund Contributions | \$ | 116,083 | \$ | 408,141 | 24.9% | \$ | 391,838 |
| General Fund Expenses | | 122,895 | | 356,027 | 21.8% | | 334,403 |
| Annual Budget | | | 1 | L,636,321 | 100.0% | | L,519,243 |

Current Status of the 2010 Sanctuary Building Debt





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

www.UnityFortMill.org

JOIN US SUNDAY

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

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

> > Share Your

Tithes and Offerings

Online



Return Service Requested

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