

Life at Unity

March 18, 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 we continue through the Season of Lent and our 2025 "Lift Up!" Stewardship Campaign, I want to explore with you the spiritual practice of "generosity." In their book *The Paradox of Generosity*, Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson say:

Generosity is the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. It is a learned character trait that involves attitude and action entailing both the inclination and the actual practice of giving liberally. It is not a haphazard behavior but a basic organization of life. What generosity gives can vary: aid, encouragement, and more but it always intends to enhance the true wellbeing of the receiver. Like all virtues, generosity is in people's genuine enlightened self-interest to learn and practice

That's a mouthful, but to briefly touch on a few of the elements:

- Generosity is giving good things "freely and abundantly" - so generosity is not an obligation, giving out of compulsion, or from a sense of guilt. To be generous is to give willingly!
- Generosity is a learned character trait - we are all born pretty selfish, but generosity is a virtue we can learn and a spiritual practice that we can develop with practice and opportunity.
- Generosity includes both inclination and action - when we nurture a spirit of generosity, we nurture both our willingness to give and then we actually follow through and give freely.
- Generosity is a basic organization of life - generosity as a spiritual practice becomes a way of life, a way of being, a way of organizing our life so that we are always on the lookout for opportunities to respond to God's grace and share our time, talents, and treasures with others. In this way, generosity is not an occasional gift, but a way of life that leads to giving.
- Generosity intends to enhance the true wellbeing of the receiver - generosity does not give in hopes of getting something in return in a transactional way; neither does the spiritual practice of generosity give with "strings attached." The only intention is to enhance the wellbeing of the receiver.
- Generosity benefits the one who is generous - while we do not practice generosity in order to receive something from the recipient of our gifts, we discover with true generosity that living in this way enhances our own life and faith.

May we continue to nurture the spiritual practice of generosity together at Unity Presbyterian Church, remembering as the apostle Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians, "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." (2 Cor. 9:11-12).

See you Sunday!
Matt

The deadline to submit items for the April 1st Newsletter is **Wednesday, March 26th.**

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

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

EARLY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 -- Betty Carter; Cathey Miller;
Everett Spinner

2 -- Hattie Johnson; Betsy
Knight; Ty Teague; Beverly
Wacker

3 -- Adam Fantone; Jill
Grossoehme

5 -- Molly Ernst; Will Fulmer

6 -- Candice Fantone; McIntosh
Wells; Bruce Windom; Erin
Wolfe; Chris Wynings

7 -- Abby Helms; Emma Melton

8 -- Ethan Conley; Susan Kidd;
Delaney Michael; Emma
Michael; Margaret Monroe;
Owen Pope; Addison Turner

9 -- Sutton Borland; Adam
Newman; Carson Roberds

10 -- Charity Fogle; Mike
Jamison; Abigail Kuebler;
Lauren Pressley; Rachel
Templeton; Ronan White

11 -- Genevieve Evans; Norma
Lester; William Logan; Shannon
Mari; Aubrey Nix; Avery Nix;
Harper Young

12 -- Zach Baxley; Lex Hannon;
Nate Pickel; Chris Spinner

13 -- Earl Barrett; Jessica Bunge;
J.D. Hattaway; Wiley Spinner

14 -- Charlotte Choate; Jenny
Coker; Arthur Hill; Carson
Martin; Glenn Reams

15 -- Patty Barron; Carly Fulmer

EASTER MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

2025 EASTER MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS



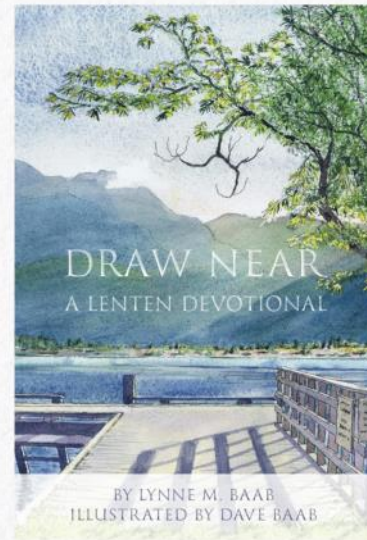
Many members of our congregation have developed a tradition of giving a financial gift to Unity in memory or honor of loved ones at Easter. If you would like to make such an offering, please complete the form found in the Pews/Narthex and return it to the church office. Please make your check payable to Unity and write "Easter Memorial/Honorarium" on the memo line. Donations can also be made through Unity's website at <https://unityfortmill.org/give/easter-memorials-and-honorariums/>. If you need additional assistance, contact Anissa Lee (alee@unityfortmill.org) in the church office. **The deadline for receipt of these gifts is March 30th.** They will be listed in a booklet which will be available in the Narthex on April 13th.

LENTEN PRAYER & REFLECTION

Lenten Prayer & Reflection

Join us each Tuesday during Lent at
7:30 am, 12:30 pm or 6:30 pm
in the Historic Sanctuary
for prayer and quiet reflection on a
Psalm each week.

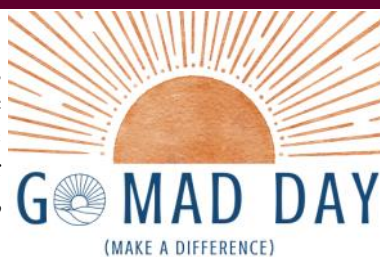
Come to a brief prayer and reflection service offered each week during Lent that will be guided by the psalms in that week's Lenten devotions from the *Draw Near* devotional. Services will last no more than 30 minutes and be offered three different times on Tuesdays.



No registration is necessary.

CHURCH WIDE SERVICE EVENT FOR ALL AGES!

Did you miss the deadline to sign up for GO MAD (Go Make a Difference) Day? If you did, don't panic, we would still love to include you! Please contact the church office, or Pastor Molly directly using the number or email below to register. GO MAD is our intergenerational service event **held on Saturday, March 29th, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** GO MAD Day is for people 4-100 years old and offers small group service projects appropriate for families with children, teens, and adults of all ages. We will be working with many of our local mission partners here in York County. We have projects lined up with Habitat for Humanity, The Fort Mill Care Center, The Isaiah 117 House, Pathways Community Center, Levine Children's Hospital, and many more. A nursery will be provided for children under age 4. If you have any questions, call the church office at 803-547-5544, or contact Molly Spangler at mspangler@unityfortmill.org for more information.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO ASK FOR HELP

We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help it is a sign of weakness, so we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that's not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

God wants us to care for others—and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help.

We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It's confidential too!) Find out more

about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our referral coordinators, Susan Mobley or

Dave Johnson, via email at Stephenministryreferrals@unityfortmill.org or call Rev. Molly Spangler at the church office - 803-547-5543.

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

MONEY TALKS: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT MONEY, FAITH, LIFE, & THE STORIES WE TELL



Join Dr. Matt for "Money Talks," a small group where we'll talk about money, faith, life, and the stories we tell. **The group will meet on March 23rd and 30th at 4:00 p.m. in M102.** Topics will include reflecting on what we've learned about money and faith from our parents and grandparents; our own motivations for giving of our time, talents, and resources; what scripture tells us about stewardship and money (it's a lot!); and the vision we have for faithful use of our money and resources in the future. There's no doubt that "money talks," so come and see what yours might be saying.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - MARCH 30TH

The Session has called a **Congregational Meeting for Sunday, March 30th, immediately following both worship services** to elect the 2025 Nominating Committee. Those who will be nominated to serve are: Peter Olinger (elder and chair); Krista Renken (elder); Judd Glasco (deacon); Elizabeth Bowers (deacon); Wyndie Havnaer (Women of Unity); Jim Boyd (Men's Ministry); Bella Cardozo (Youth); Ken Tysinger (at-large member); and Kathryn Glenn (at-large member).

HOLY WEEK AT UNITY

Our Lenten journey concludes as we arrive in Jerusalem, finding our way at the foot of the cross and the empty tomb: Plan to join us for worship:

- **Palm Sunday, April 13th** - Worship with a Palm Procession, Children's Choir Anthem, and Musical Presentation by the Chancel Choir of the Seven Last Words of Christ at 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM
- **Maundy Thursday, April 17th** - Worship with communion at 6:30 PM
- **Good Friday, April 18th** - Joint Worship Service with other Fort Mill Presbyterian Churches at 12:00 PM
- **Easter Sunday, April 20th** - Worship
 - * **7:00 AM** in the Historic Sanctuary
 - * **8:45 AM and 11:00 AM**, identical services with special music in the Sanctuary with butterfly release following



THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

Join us Palm Sunday for a special presentation of *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Théodore Dubois. The Chancel Choir will present this moving work at both worship services on Sunday, April 13th, featuring soloists from the choir, as well as guest instrumentalists.

Journey with us to the cross to hear Christ's last words, which have been used for centuries by Christians as a way to pray for others, to reflect on their own lives, and to approach the cross of Christ and the empty tomb in a new way.

UNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

The next session of children's choir will begin on March 23rd, with both choirs meeting together at 3:00 p.m. All children 4K-grade 5 are invited to participate. We will rehearse for three Sundays, and then finish the choir year by singing in worship on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Parents, please register any children singing for the first time this school year using the **QR code** (returning singers do not need to register again). Contact Margaret

Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org or 547-5543 with any questions.



LUNCH BUNCH: MARCH 26TH AT NOON



Our speaker for March will be Captain Wendy C. Bell, Ph.D. who is an employee of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). She currently serves as Captain of Forensic Operations. In her presentation, she will give an overview of the new Forensic Services Laboratory which was completed and occupied in the Fall of 2022. She will discuss the wide range of forensic services the laboratory provides for the citizens of SC and discuss some of the topics that most of us face daily: cyber attacks, phone scams, and identity theft. Please join us for this informative discussion on **March 26th**. Bring your salad or sandwich and connect with old and new Unity friends. Chips, drinks, and desserts are always available at no charge. Just come and join the fun!!

CONNECTIONS CLASS

If you are curious about membership or have decided that this is the time for a commitment to Unity Presbyterian Church, please come to our Connections Class, **beginning Sunday, March 30th and continuing on Sunday April 6th**. Members of the H&E committee will welcome you in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. The class will give you a brief overview of the many opportunities to participate in the life of Unity, a little introduction to our history, an opportunity to meet a few staff members, and ask any questions you may have about the church and our beliefs. If you have any questions, please contact Cathey Miller, Chair of the H&E committee, at (704)724-6813 or at cat6813@hotmail.com. We will be waiting to meet you with coffee and donuts!!



SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

Come grow in your faith

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION
10:00 AM



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



SHEPHERDS NEEDED FOR VBS



Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 9th - Thursday, June 12th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for children in Rising 4K-4th grade. Mission Camp will be held concurrently for children currently in Rising 5th and 6th grade. This year's theme is "Road Trip: On the Go With God". Registration is currently open for Unity families, grandchildren of Unity members, and Unity Preschool families but some age groups already have a Waitlist. We are particularly in need of shepherds to work with a partner to walk children from place to place during the morning and help

the leaders with their activities. Youth 6th grade and up and adults of all ages can serve as shepherds. Sign up now to volunteer and help us make this summer the best VBS ever!: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA9AF22A4FE3-54606563-vbs2025>.

A FEW SPOTS ARE LEFT FOR VBS & MISSION CAMP. REGISTER TODAY!

Registration is open for Unity families, grandchildren of Unity members, and Unity Preschool families. VBS will be Monday, June 9-Thursday, June 12 from 9:00 am – noon each day. If your child's age group is full, please choose Waitlist in the dropdown box for age group. Visit <https://unityfortmill.org/ministries/children/events/vbs-2/> to learn more and register today!



GCS SPRING COOKOUT APRIL 13TH

All current 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are invited to our GCs Spring Cookout at the Springfield Pavilion on **Sunday, April 13th from 5:00-6:30 p.m.** A special invitation is issued to our current 3rd graders who will be moving up to GCs in the fall. Join us for this fun night out to see what GCs is all about. We will eat dinner, play games, and recognize all of our 5th graders who will be leaving children's ministry this summer and moving to youth group in the fall. **Scan the QR Code to register by April 8th.**



SECOND ANNUAL WAX MUSEUM



Everyone is invited to attend our second annual Wax Museum hosted by the 3rd-5th grade Sunday school class on **Sunday, April 13th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Come see, hear, and learn from costumed, first-hand accounts of Old Testament Heroes. Refreshments provided in Room M208. This will take the place of all regular Faith Formation classes that morning.

YOUTH HANDBELLS

All Youth grades 6-12 are invited to participate in a handbell choir just for you! We will rehearse **after 11:00 worship on the following Sundays: April 6th, April 13th, April 27th, and May 4th.** We will then play in worship on Sunday, May 11th at both services. We'll go over basic note reading and ringing techniques. **Please sign up using the QR code** to reserve your spot, or contact Margaret Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org or 803-547-5543.



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](https://www.instagram.com/UnityFortMill)

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

Be sure to "like" our page.



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR UNITY YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS!

Middle and high school youth are headed on some awesome mission and faith formation trips this summer and we want you to be part of it. High schoolers are heading to Montreat Youth Conference and a Mission Trip at St. Simons Island. Middle schoolers are heading to Massanetta Middle School Conference. All trip registration closes on April 1st. Register now on Realm!



JOIN US FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT ON SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD!

All middle schoolers are invited to meet at Adult Enrichment Center (105 Lestina Ct.) from 3-4pm to engage in a service project with our outreach partners. We can't wait to see you!

EASTER EGG HUNT



UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR AN EASTER EGG HUNT!

<p>Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt Friday, April 4 6:45-8:15 pm For 3rd-5th Graders</p>	<p>Traditional Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 5 10:00 am For all ages No registration needed</p>
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Use QR code to register by March 31



UNITY YOUTH BOWLING

Register now to join us for Unity Youth Bowling on **Sunday, March 30th from 3:30-5:30 p.m.!** Meet at Lake Wylie Pins n' Wins (formerly Lake Wylie Bowl n' Bounce). Register here: <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/Registrations/Registrants/3daa8b2b-eaff-4835-8751-b2970122884d?congregantView=True>.

Unity Youth BOWLING

SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH
3:30-5:30PM

LAKE WYLIE PINS N' WINS
 (Formerly Lake Wylie Bowl n' Bounce)

Register now on Realm!
 Youth are responsible for arranging their own ride.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This offering began following World War II when Protestant churches in the United States made appeals for the relief and reconstruction of devastated areas, primarily in Europe and Asia. With the devastation occurring in Ukraine and other countries abroad, as well as the destruction occurring in the United States from severe storms, hurricanes, flooding, and blizzards, assistance continues to be needed. Each gift to OGHs supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Unity will receive the **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering on EASTER SUNDAY, April 20th**. For more information or to give, visit: <https://unityfortmill.org/give/special-offering/>.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT AFFIRMATION OF YORK COUNTY?

Affirmation of York County is a support group for people who ponder questions of faith and life related to the LGBTQ+ community. This is a safe group for LGBTQ+ people, their parents, family members, and friends who seek understanding and acceptance within their faith communities. People of all faiths are welcome to participate. The group is a confidential and respectful space to seek support and understanding. All who participate are invited to share their stories in a caring atmosphere, or just to come and listen. **Affirmation's next meeting will be Tuesday, April 8th, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at The Mercantile in Rock Hill.** If you have questions, you can reach out to Melissa at lampytc@gmail.com.



CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF YORK COUNTY

The ISACA Charlotte Chapter is hosting a charity golf tournament benefiting Habitat for Humanity of York County on **Monday, May 5th, 2025** at River Hills Country Club in Lake Wylie, SC. This Captain's Choice golf event is raising funds for affordable homeownership construction in York County. Cost is \$175/player or \$700/team. For more information and to register go to: <https://yorkcountyhabitat.org/golftournament>.



2025 CAPTAIN'S CHOICE CHARITY

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

RIVER HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

HOSTED BY:

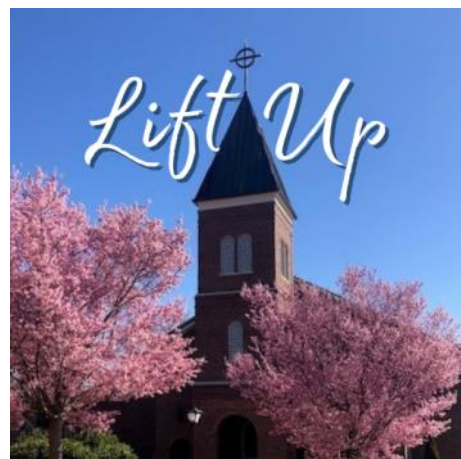


STEWARDSHIP 2025 - "LIFT UP"

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." ~ Psalm 121:1-2

Commitment Sunday is on March 30th. We invite you to make a pledge of your time, talents, and financial resources as together we LIFT UP all that God is doing at Unity Presbyterian Church. Here are some important notes:

- **Watch** the Lift Up Video – <https://youtu.be/HZ66mrqxjwk?feature=shared>. A big thanks to Reid Bennett and Dr. Matt for creating it.
- **Listen** for the Moments for Stewardship that will be shared by members of Unity in worship on March 23rd and 30th.
- **Visit** <https://unityfortmill.org/give/stewardship/> to review all stewardship information for your pledge of time, talent, and financial gifts.
- **Celebrate on March 30th** - Stewardship Commitment Sunday - with communion and your commitment to LIFT UP God's work through Unity.
- You can also communicate your choices online by logging into REALM. To indicate how you would like to serve, choose "Serving" and then browse "Opportunities". Click on items you are interested in and "Submit your Interest" directly to team leaders. You can also indicate your pledge through REALM by choosing "Giving" and then "Pledges" and clicking "+ Pledge".



LIFT UP: STEWARDSHIP 2025 - BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY



The mission of the Building and Grounds Ministry Team is to use our campus to create a welcoming and safe place to worship and serve God. In 2025 we are working on four major projects that need everyone's time, talent, and financial support.

In December 2024, our campus insurance carrier unexpectedly notified us that they would not be renewing our coverage, effective February 23, 2025. Zeno Wall and Dave Reimer worked with several potential carriers to ensure solid and comparable coverage would be in place before our previous policy expired. We were able to negotiate a new policy with Brotherhood Mutual, fortunately at only a slight increase in premium.

Also in December 2024, our Landscaping Company announced it was retiring. We interviewed multiple candidates, looking for a company to give Unity a full range of services at an affordable price. The Session approved a new contract with Sanchez Landscaping who will be providing expanded service to the church, but does result in B&G increasing their budget request for landscaping by \$5000 budget request for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

B&G and our Green Thumb team are bringing more color to our campus. Two hundred daffodil bulbs were planted and Lenten Roses were added in front of the Historic Sanctuary. The flowers are already blooming, so we hope you will enjoy this beautiful addition to our grounds.

To address potholes and other hazards, with an approved budget of \$105,000, the paving project for the Circular Drive and the Fellowship Hall parking lot was completed on Saturday, March 15th. The week of the 24th, stone will be added along the edge of the asphalt to create a smoother transition into the grass. An additional \$9,950 was approved to increase handicap parking and improve pedestrian access to the Fellowship Hall and Historic Sanctuary. These funds will be drawn from the Major Maintenance Reserve Fund.

Finally, ensuring our church campus is safe and welcoming remains a priority. The Safety Ministry Team and Session have directed B & G to make recommendations for an automated door locking system. Preliminary estimates for the system and the rekeying of the remaining exterior campus doors that will not be automated is approximately \$55,000.

Unity Presbyterian Church holds an historic position in Fort Mill. We are a dynamic and growing church, with room to grow more. Our campus and buildings should convey the message: 'Come visit us, enjoy our hospitality, you are safe here with us. Join us in service to God.' We hope you will join with Building and Grounds as we 'Lift Up' our facilities and campus and as we make or renew our commitments of time, talents, and treasures on **Commitment Sunday, March 30th**.

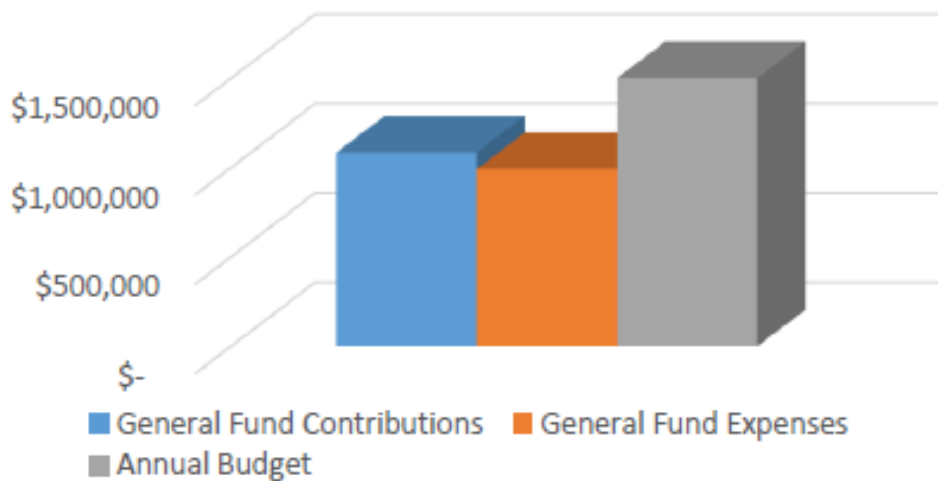
DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know, like all entities, Unity pays fees for collecting certain donations?

- **Cash & Checks** are handled in-house and do not have fees associated with depositing them.
- **Online giving initiated through your financial institution** does not have fees associated with depositing them.
- **Automatic Bank Draft** where you provide Unity’s financial office with your bank’s routing and account number, and we pull the donation monthly or quarterly. There is a small batch fee that when spread over many donations is pennies for each donation.
- **Online Giving initiated through Unity’s Realm system** carry both a transaction fee for each transaction and a processing fee as a percentage of the transaction.

2024-2025 BUDGET UPDATE

Contributions & Expenses July - February Compared with the Annual Budget



	February 2025	Jul 1, 2024 through Feb 28, 2025	% of Annual Budget	5-Year Average
General Fund Contributions	\$ 118,513	\$ 1,083,913	66.2%	\$1,010,877
General Fund Expenses	126,213	990,870	60.6%	933,891
Annual Budget		1,636,321	100.0%	1,519,243

Current Status of the 2010 Sanctuary Building Debt

Balance, February 28, 2025	\$ 361,800
Projected Balloon Payment Due, 6/5/2027	\$ 202,000

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

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/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.