

Life at Unity

April 16, 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,

I often find that the events and gifts of Good Friday and Easter Sunday are beyond words to adequately describe. We are mere witnesses to the wonders of what God has done for us. So, I am always grateful for poets and artists who help me to see. This year, I share with you Anne Porter's poem "Music".

When I was a child
I once sat sobbing on the floor
Beside my mother's piano
As she played and sang
For there was in her singing
A shy yet solemn glory
My smallness could not hold

And when I was asked
Why I was crying
I had no words for it
I only shook my head
And went on crying

Why is it that music
At its most beautiful
Opens a wound in us
An ache a desolation
Deep as a homesickness
For some far-off
And half-forgotten country

I've never understood
Why this is so

But there's an ancient legend
From the other side of the world
That gives away the secret
Of this mysterious sorrow

For centuries on centuries
We have been wandering
But we were made for Paradise
As deer for the forest

And when music comes to us
With its heavenly beauty
It brings us desolation
For when we hear it
We half remember
That lost native country

We dimly remember the fields
Their fragrant windswept clover
The birdsongs in the orchards
The wild white violets in the moss
By the transparent streams

And shining at the heart of it
Is the longed-for beauty
Of the One who waits for us
Who will always wait for us
In those radiant meadows

Yet also came to live with us
And wanders where we wander.

Sunday is Resurrection Day! Come celebrate the one who came to live with us and who wanders where we wander.

God bless,
Matt

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED ON EASTER MONDAY

In gratitude to God and appreciation for Unity's wonderful church staff, the church office is closed on Easter Monday, April 21st. However, if you have a pastoral emergency, please reach Dr. Matt, Pastor Molly, or Pastor Mark on their cell phones.

The deadline to submit items for the May 6th Newsletter is **Wednesday, April 30th.**

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.



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 MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 -- Andrew Burrell; Margaret Collom; Philip Mace

3 -- Samuel Pecarro; Ben Weaver

4 -- LeAnne Morse

5 -- Ryan Bunge; Matt Dorosh; Elaine Evans; Tom McElmoyle; Jessica Shamble; Max Windham

6 -- RJ Bates

7 -- Braelynn Benanti; Madelyn Jennings; Anna Mace; Mark Verdery

8 -- Evelyn Creech; Amy Gamble; Eric Hansen; Brenda Joyner; Kate Pilley; Barbie Wynings

9 -- Carolyn Blair; Brian Fish; Jan Konkus; Ned McAteer; Jolie Palmer; Ken Sheets; Maggie Zerkus

10 -- Joyce Gammon; Ann Neel


11 -- Matthew Anderson; Greyson Hunt

12 -- Layla Brindisi; Brad Fox; Katherine Liebert; Jennifer Smith; Molly Spangler; Jessi Young

13 -- Michael Benanti; Lauren Cole; Kieran McCormack; Nancy Nutter; Nicole Swainey; Beth Windell

14 -- Justin Bossert; Courtney Channell; Lauren Mobley

15 -- Noah Fike; Caroline Hoffman; Dawson McKinney




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.

HOLY WEEK AT UNITY

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

* 7:00 AM Worship in the Historic Sanctuary
* 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM, identical worship services with special music in the Sanctuary with butterfly release following



EASTER USHERS/GREETERS NEEDED

Easter is a unique opportunity to serve in ways you may not have done before. Because of the number of services and attendees we anticipate, additional hands are greatly needed to greet, usher, collect offering and assist with parking.

Easter 8:45am - We just need 3 more Ushers.

Easter 11am - We need 2 more parking attendants

If you have questions, wish to serve, or would like to form a group to take on one or more roles, please contact Justin Richardson (justin.richardson1@gmail.com or text 980.579.8565) or sign up on Realm.

LUNCH BUNCH - APRIL 23RD AT NOON



Our speaker for **April 23rd** will be Chris Mitchell who is CEO of Fort Mill Piedmont Hospital. He will update us on the services offered at this new facility located at 160 and 21 in Fort Mill. Please join us for this informative overview of the care available at this new facility! Bring your salad or sandwich and join your friends for an enjoyable afternoon. This will be our last speaker of the year since our annual picnic is in May at Allison Creek Park in York, SC. We will have more information about the picnic. As always, we provide drinks, desserts, and chips. **See you on the 23rd at noon!**

LOST AND FOUND

Have you misplaced an item? It may be in our Lost & Found located in the hallway adjacent to the Sanctuary. We will be collecting items soon to donate to Goodwill.



GOOD FRIDAY CHOIR

All interested youth and adults are invited to **sing in the choir for our community Good Friday service on April 18th.** The service is at noon, and we will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the choir room to learn the anthem and go over hymns. Please wear all black (or as close to it as you can) and bring a black three-ring binder if you have one. We will be joined by musicians and choir members from other Presbyterian churches. Please contact Margaret Monroe, Director of Music, at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org with any questions.

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 with any questions.

HMT HEALTH CORNER

Health Tip: Prioritize protein in each meal. Pair with a healthy serving of fruits, vegetables and healthy fats like olive oil, coconut oil, or real butter.



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.

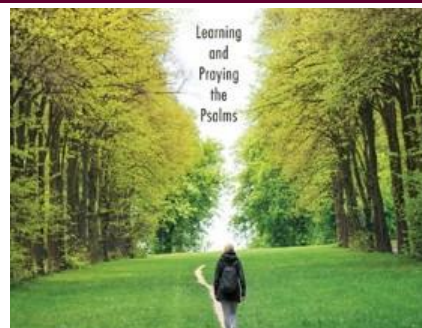
To learn more about Stephen Ministry, talk to one of our referral coordinators, Susan Mobley or Dave Johnson via email at

Stephenministryreferrals@unityfortmill.org or call Rev. Molly Spangler at the church office - 803-547-5543.

Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!

FINDING MY STORY IN THE PSALMS

We often turn to the book of Psalms for spiritual encouragement, for assistance in worshipping God, or as model prayers. But do you see yourself in the Psalms? Do the Psalms tell your story? In this five-week class we'll explore five psalms that are rarely studied but that yield rich insights for answering questions like: *Who am I ... really? Where did I come from? How has God's hand been on my life? Can God ever forgive me for ...? How can I trust God more?* The class will be led by Steve Simon, who is a retired Presbyterian pastor and the author of the book *Holy Walks: Learning and Praying the Psalms*. The Psalms we'll focus on include: Psalm 103 ("Rooted in God's Love"), Psalm 104 ("The Creator of All"), Psalm 105 ("A Faithful God"), Psalm 106 ("An Unfaithful People"), and Psalm 107 ("Tales of God's Deliverance"). As time allows, we'll also examine Psalm 78, psalms of lament, and various other psalms. "Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the Lord" (Ps. 107:43).



This group meets on **Thursday evenings, from May 1st-29th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Room M204**. Register Here: <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MDFmOWMxZWUtZjg5MC00NGJjLWJmZjMtYjYhYzAxMTlkOTBj>. **Deadline to register is April 25th.**

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

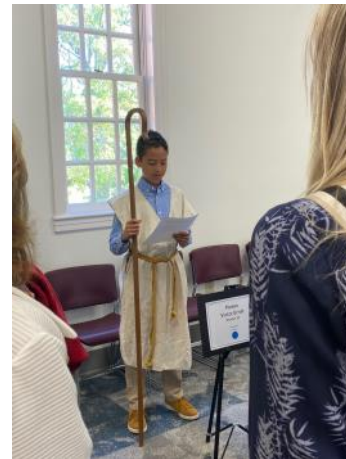
SAVE THE DATE FOR CPR!

Innovative Solutions will return to our campus on **Saturday, May 3rd**, to offer certification in Heartsaver CPR through the American Heart Association. The class will **begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** and last approximately 2-1/2 hours. Participants will learn CPR and choking first aid for infants, children and adults. Use of the campus AEDs will also be included. The class fee is \$50.00. Sign-up is required to ensure the correct number of instructors. However, no payment is due until the day of class. Innovative Solutions requests payment in cash. **To register, call the church office at 803-547-5543 or Susan Benfield at 803-984-6100.** Increase your knowledge and ability to respond with confidence! Join us for a few hours. Your knowledge could save a life.



WAX MUSEUM RECAP

Thank you to all who supported our Old Testament Heroes Wax Museum!



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". 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>.



TAIZÉ

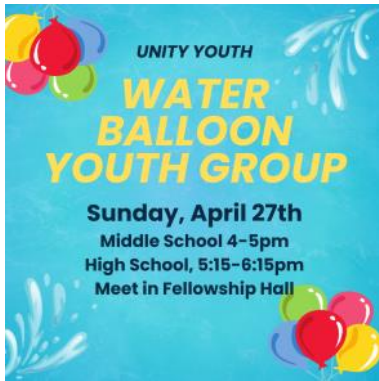


Our next Taizé service will be **Sunday, May 4th at 5:30 p.m. in the Historic Sanctuary** (*please note the different time*). A Taizé service is composed of candlelight, Scripture readings, prayer, intervals of silence, and contemplative chants. Join us for a time of quiet centering and meditation.



THANK YOU!

Thank You to everyone who returned their Pledges of Time, Talents, and Treasures on Commitment Sunday, March 30th! It was truly a wonderful Sunday of joy, gratitude, generosity, and celebration. If you missed Commitment Sunday or have not had a chance to turn in your pledges, it is not too late! Please bring your forms to the church office, log into REALM and choosing "Giving" or visit <https://unityfortmill.org/give/stewardship/> as soon as you are able.



WATER BALLOON GAMES!

Join for Water Balloon Games at Youth Group on **April 27th!** Middle schoolers meet from 4:00-5:00 p.m. and High schoolers meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Wear clothes that can get wet! Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

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 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=NWYzZGRkZTUtMmFmMy00ZWI5LWE5YWWEtYjIjMTAxNGVmYTQy>.



UNITY YOUTH END OF YEAR PARTY!

Save the Date for Unity Youth End of Year Party on **Sunday, May 4th!** All middle & high school youth are invited for a foam pit, games, and Kona Ice on the Front Lawn from **3:30 - 5:00 p.m.!** Current 5th graders are also invited. We want to welcome you to youth group!



CELEBRATING THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2025!



On Sunday, April 6th, thirteen 8th graders reaffirmed their baptismal covenant and were confirmed as active members of Unity Presbyterian Church. We are so grateful for these young people who have committed their lives to active discipleship of Jesus Christ.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD DISTRIBUTION EVENT

The Unity Outreach Team is sponsoring a Second Harvest Food Distribution event on **Friday morning, April 25th, 2025, from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.** All ages are invited to come participate! Please come and help distribute food by parcelling and loading food into grocery carts, and placing the food into our guest's cars. Bring any paper or plastic grocery bags that you have available. Volunteers to transport any remaining foods to the Fort Mill Care Center is appreciated, and to help recycle cardboard and shipping pallets. Please call or text Jim Boyd if you have questions (803.984.2277).



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:



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/>.

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

GO MAD (GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE) DAY 2025

Our Go Make A Difference Day on March 29, was a wonderful morning of service! We had 95 people come out to work on nine projects around the community. We started the day off with a delicious breakfast provided by the Men's Ministry Team, and we worshipped around our tables together. Then we went out to serve our neighbors!

Here is a summary of all that we were able to accomplish with our mission partners:

- * A team was able to help work on a Habitat for Humanity build in Rock Hill.
- * We made and delivered 18 oven ready meals and many bags of cookie dough to Defend the Fatherless. They send meals home with families when they receive a new foster child to help make the transition less traumatic.
- * We went to Family Promise and helped them clean up roof tiles from damage their building sustained during a large storm last year.
- * We helped clean and organize the Fort Mill Care Center.
- * A team went to the storage unit for the Isaiah 117 House to help sort many of the donations they have received. Isaiah 117 helps provide care for children when they are removed from an unsafe situation, while they wait to be placed with a foster family. Their goal is to reduce the trauma children experience on removal day.
- * We made 15 blankets and delivered them to Levine Children's Hospital. The blankets are given to patients for comfort while they are staying at the hospital.
- * Several of us went to Pathways Community Center in Rock Hill to help with their Saturday morning Manna Food Pantry.
- * A group of us stayed at Unity and created beautiful handmade cards to send to our Unity members who are homebound as well as many on our prayer list.
- * Another team was able to stay at Unity and spread mulch and pine straw to care for our campus and make sure we are ready for the spring and to welcome people for Easter.

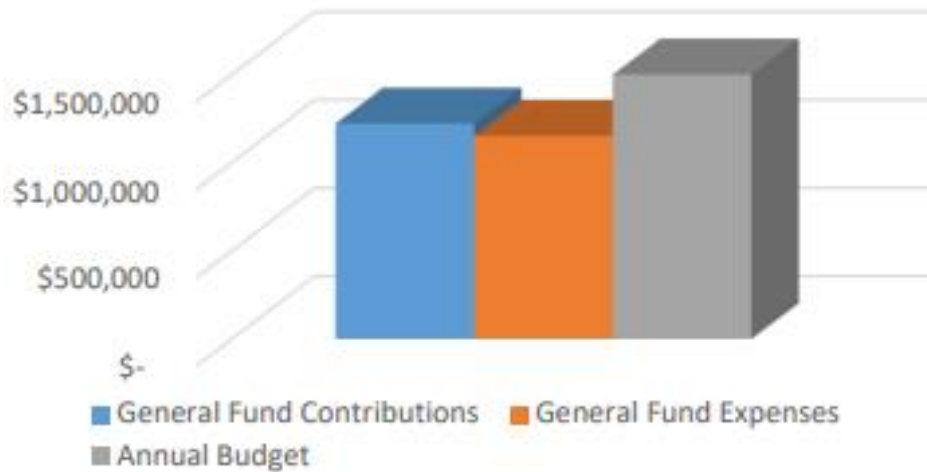
It was an incredible day of service, fellowship, and growth as we gave of our time, talent, and resources together. Our planning team is grateful for everyone who came out to serve, as well as those who served as project coordinators for the day. And a big thank you to our 2025 GO MAD planning team: Dave Reimer, Elizabeth Watson, Chris Routh, and Ned Chamberlain.

If you have any interest in helping with ideas or planning for GO MAD 2026, please reach out to Pastor Molly, mspanler@unityfortmill.org.



2024-2025 BUDGET UPDATE

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

Current Status of the 2010 Sanctuary Building Debt

Balance, March 31, 2025	\$ 350,500
Projected Balloon Payment Due, 6/5/2027	\$ 197,000

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.