

Life at Unity

May 20, 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Have you been rejoicing that we are in the midst of another wonderful string of weeks with baptisms here at Unity Presbyterian Church? Between May 4 and June 1, we will celebrate the baptisms of nine infants, toddlers, youth, and adults. It is truly an amazing gift!

As we rejoice in this gift from God, we also might reflect on a unique line that we include in the baptism liturgy. The liturgy we use is based on the baptismal liturgy I first encountered as a seminary student worshiping at River Road Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA. Sarah and I had just started attending that church when we witnessed the first baptism. I do not recall the name of the child, but I clearly remember being moved by the baptism. Somehow it was not just a baptism of a random child I did not know; it was a personal experience with the Holy Spirit for me as a congregation member. And one of the phrases in that liturgy that made it so and stuck me was the line, "Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament."

I know that I do not have an intellectual, mental recollection of my own baptism. I have seen pictures of my parents and grandparents decked out in their finest mid-1970's fashions, holding me in a white baptismal gown – looked more like a dress than a gown, but we will go with "gown" since it is family heirloom that my three children have now also worn. I have heard stories about the day. I even have a copy of my baptismal certificate in a box somewhere. But to remember my baptism, how could that be?

The first way is to volunteer to rock a baby in the nursery! As you gaze into the eyes of the children of our church, you'll remember God's greatest gifts and begin to fulfill the promises you've made as a congregation member each time a child of our church is baptized.

The final stanza of the hymn, "Lord, When You Came to Jordan" by Brian Wren might help as well:

"Faith rests content with questions
Of when and why and how,
But craves the gift of seeing
What God is doing now.
Lord, bring us to our Jordan
Of newly opened eyes,
Through love, immersed in living,
As You were once baptized."

As we find ourselves immersed in Christ's love through our living, we might find our eyes opened to what God is doing here and now. We remember our own baptism as we are brought to our Jordan River to see God at work in the world; to see the gifts of the Holy Spirit descend; to see a new creation begin to break forth. When we remember our own baptism, we take that next step of faith in our own journey, confident in the one who has claimed us as God's own long before even our birth.

So let us remember with joy our baptism and let us live with the faith, confidence, and joy of beloved children of God.

God bless,
Matt



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

The deadline to submit items for
the June 3rd Newsletter is
Wednesday, May 28th.

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 vaughndnl@comporium.net.

JOIN US SUNDAY

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

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

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 JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 -- Joan Boardman; Jackson Hollingsworth; Isa Johnson; Taylor Johnson; June Lochel

2 -- Bonnie Christensen; Lyn Evans; Paul McIntyre; Bob Reid; Burt Welch

3 -- Ashley Blake; Cecelia Creech; Terry Durso; Bryn Fantone; Sylvie Rusch; Debbie Whitsett

4 -- Chase Bowers; Laura Glenn; Annabelle Gload; Randy Higgins; Brickley Oltmann; Lorraine Ward

5 -- Caroline Chamberlain; Madison Gregory

6 -- Gail Ellison; Jad Griffin; Wendy Matherly; William Reigel; Mark Spinner; Dan Strout

7 -- Phil Hereford; William Howard; Laura Jamison; Mary Johnson; Lauren Lochel; Christy Stephens

8 -- Alex Lovette; Joshua McCabe; Reagan McCabe

9 -- Angela Chamberlain; Penny Hudson

10 -- Charles Creech; Seth Grosseohme; Olivia Hunt; Ben Knight; Janice McCann; Travis Weldon

11 -- Adam Helms; Gus Lubanski

12 -- Jill Kim; Luke Weaver

13 -- Randy Grantham

14 -- Rhonda Barrett; Emma Dowd; Amy Dunbar; Jim Greyard; Kristy Mabe; Tony Nutter; Julia Ringley; Allison Wyndham

15 -- Benjamin Sullivan

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM EACH SUNDAY IN JULY



We had so much fun last summer, we've decided to do it again. We will hold a **single worship service each week at 10:00 AM each Sunday in July**. Unity traditionally participates in Change for the Church with casual dress and a special offering in July, so we'll also change our worship time to all worship together. Children in Worship and Nursery will be offered at this service as well

as Family Choir. So, go ahead and change your calendars to note that we'll worship at 10:00 AM each Sunday in July - and come early because it means the sanctuary will be full each week!

"TENDING THE SOUL" - JUNE & JULY PREACHING & WORSHIP SERIES

After living into the vision "God's Story and Our Stories" for the last two years, concluding with our current Easter Season series on the Book of Revelation, we sensed a need this summer to collectively pause and consider the spiritual gifts and practices that sustain us as we engage as disciples in the world and look forward to a new vision together. So, **our preaching and worship series for June and July will be "Tending the Soul."** While each week will stand alone, we hope you will join us for this series as we grow, explore, and reflect together:



- June 15 - Rest
- June 22 - Being Present
- June 29 - Saying No
- July 6 - Nourishment
- July 13 - Community
- July 20 - Dwelling in God's Word
- July 27 - Wonder, Awe, and Beauty

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!

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SUNDAY

Sunday, June 1st, is Peanut Butter & Jelly Sunday. Please bring your donations of food and supplies for the Fort Mill Care Center and deposit them in the collection box in the Narthex on Sunday or any time you are at church. Current needs at the Care Center include pasta sauce, canned chicken & pork, canned fruit, boxed meals (Banquet Homestyle Bakes, Chicken/Tuna Helper, Suddenly Pasta Salad), BBQ sauce, sugar, hygiene and cleaning supplies. You can also drop off donations, including any refrigerated items, directly at the Fort Mill Care Center. They are open MWF 9:00 AM to noon and Tuesday from 5 to 7 PM. (NOTE: The Care Center will be closed on Fridays during June, July, and August.) Please have them weigh the donation and please send an Email with the total weight to Larry Terrell at larry.terrell@sbcglobal.net. Last month we collected 458 lbs., bringing our year-to-date total to 2,313 lb. Thank you for generously supporting our neighbors in need.



WEDNESDAY DANCE FITNESS CLASSES - modified summer schedule

The Dance Fitness classes will meet every other week in the summer. Both classes (Rhythm-n-Moves at 9:30 a.m. and Line Dance at 10:30 a.m.) will meet on May 21st, June 4th, June 18th, July 2nd, July 16th, and July 30th. We will return to meeting every week beginning in August.

"SNACK" YOUR WAY TO BETTER FITNESS

Exercise snacks are short bursts of activity, like walking, dancing, or squats, that can be done throughout the day to improve fitness and break up sedentary time. They typically last 30 seconds to 5 minutes, and don't require a formal workout or gym visit. They can be any form of movement that increases your heart rate or improves mobility. Some examples of exercise snacks include stair climbing, jumping jacks, chair squats and wall sits. The idea is to use these snacks as a way to get closer to the American

Heart Association's recommended 2-1/2 hours per week of moderate intensity exercise. As with any new habit, you will achieve success and sustainability over time by starting small. Incorporate just a few snacks into your day at first.

Then gradually add more throughout the day. Studies show that with consistency, you will notice increased energy and improvement in overall cardiorespiratory fitness.

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 Zeno Wall at ZWall@UnityFortMill.org.

WOMEN'S CHORUS

All women, young women, and girls (who are readers) of the church are invited to participate in a special Women's Chorus on Father's Day, June 15th. We will sing at both services, so you can choose which service you would like to attend. The rehearsal schedule is as follows: June 8th - brief rehearsal in the sanctuary following each service, June 15th - 8:15 or 10:30 in the choir room. The anthem is simple and easily learned—come make a joyful noise! Please contact Margaret Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org with any questions.

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.

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.



UNITY PRESCHOOL GRADUATION



Many thanks to the Unity staff and congregation for supporting Unity Preschool throughout the school year with donations of money, supplies, and time. Unity Preschool recognized our 17th graduating class of 21 children on May 14th. These children will attend several different schools in Fort Mill and Indian Land. What a joy to know that these children will carry Jesus' love with them when they begin their new adventures! We look forward to filling the rooms and halls of Unity with smiling faces and the sounds of love and joy in August when our 2025-26 school year begins.

THANK YOU SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION TEACHERS!

Our regular age and stage faith formation classes finished on Sunday, May 11th for this program year and will resume on September 7th. In the meantime, there will be lots of opportunities for All-Church Faith Formation during the rest of May and June and some special ministry events in August on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Look for more information in this newsletter. This past year, we offered 11 classes for children, youth, and adults in addition to Sunday electives and special events. As we wrap up another amazing program year, we want to thank our wonderful teachers, assistants, and leaders who made Sunday morning Faith Formation for all ages possible. Through your service, you help Unity live up to its mission of *"United in Christ's love, we glorify God through worship, nurture, and service to all people."*



COFFEE, COLORING, AND CONVERSATION ON SUNDAY, MAY 25TH

Everyone is invited to kick off the summer with a special **All-Church Faith Formation opportunity Sunday, May 25th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** We will have snacks, group coloring activities and opportunities for table conversations as we close out our Annual Vision of *God's Story and Our Story*. No registration needed.

SUMMER ALL-CHURCH FAITH FORMATION



**Road Trip:
On the Go with God**

All-Church Faith Formation
Sundays at 10:00 am
in June
Fellowship Hall

Join us for an interactive Bible story each week reminding us that
***"The Lord our God is with us
wherever we go."***

We'll explore a variety of responsive activities that help us connect these stories to our own journeys with God. Come any Sunday you are in town for a trip through the Bible you won't want to miss!

For people of all ages
No registration needed
Nursery provided for children 3 and under



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. 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. Our Stephen Ministers 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.

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

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2025!

It was a joy to celebrate and pray for our graduating high school seniors during worship and at the Congregational Breakfast. Know that the love of God and this community is with you now and always!



REGISTER FOR HIGH SCHOOL LAKE DAY!

Rising 9th graders-graduated seniors are invited join us for a fun afternoon on Lake Wylie on **Sunday, June 1st, from 1:30 -5:30 p.m.** Registration is required. Visit <https://bit.ly/4mndtR2> to register.

RSVP FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL POOL PARTY!

Rising 6th-8th graders are invited to join for a Pool Party hosted by Madelyn Mikulsky on June 8th from 2-4pm. Visit <https://bit.ly/4kn1sZX> to RSVP.



SAVE THE DATE FOR UNITY YOUTH MID-WEEK MISSION & ICE CREAM SUNDAYS THIS SUMMER!

We'll engage in outreach projects together on Wednesday mornings (RSVP at <https://bit.ly/3SBTeRJ>), and gather for ice cream together on Sunday afternoons!

UNITY YOUTH SUMMER 2025



MID-WEEK MISSION

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

6/4 (Defend the Fatherless, 10-11:30am)

6/18 (Bethel Men's Shelter, 9:30-1:30pm.
Bring \$ for lunch at Hobo's! Transportation provided!)

7/23 (Adult Enrichment Center, 10-11:30am,
more details coming soon!)

Registration & more details available on
Sign-Up Genius!

UNITY YOUTH SUMMER 2025



ICE CREAM SUNDAYS

MIDDLE SCHOOL, 2-3PM
HIGH SCHOOL, 3-4PM

6/15 (SweetFrog, 914 Smithfield Way)

6/29 (Whit's Frozen Custard, 1642 Hgwy 160 W)

7/13 (Cold Stone Creamery, 1329 Broadcloth St.)

7/20 (Scoop n' Swirl, 753 Crossroads Plaza)

No registration needed!

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 or 803.571.2401) if you're interested in being a part of this year's team.



"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?

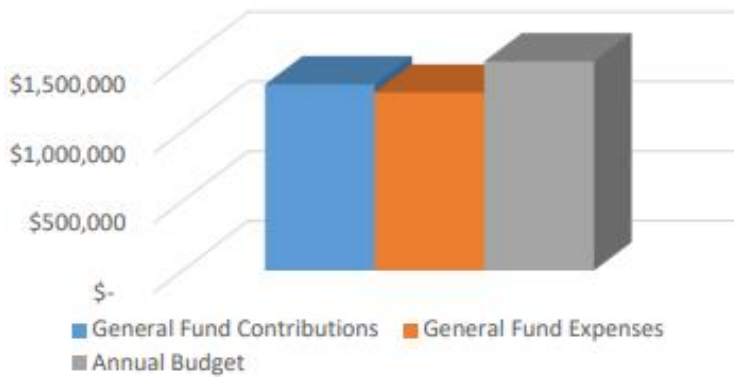
Auto-draft giving is where your bank routing number and account number is given to Unity's financial office and we pull a set amount from that account on the 1st of the month and/or 15th of the month or quarterly.

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.

2024-2025 BUDGET UPDATE

Contributions & Expenses July - April Compared with the Annual Budget



	April 2025	Jul 1, 2024 through Apr 30, 2025	% of Annual Budget	5-Year Average
General Fund Contributions	\$ 112,960	\$ 1,334,985	81.6%	\$1,225,850
General Fund Expenses	124,743	1,276,224	78.0%	1,177,635
Annual Budget		1,636,321	100.0%	1,519,243

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