

Life at Unity

March 03, 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

“Nothing transforms your life faster than a decision followed by consistent effort.”

Several months ago, I saw that quote online and saved it because I knew our Lenten and Stewardship theme for this year was going to be “Transformed by Love.” Throughout this season we are considering various scriptural individuals and stories whose lives were changed by an encounter with the love of God. Let us never forget that transformation begins with God and ultimately God’s act of love in Jesus Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.

And yet, it is possible for us to experience an encounter with God, to see God’s love in action, and continue with our lives unchanged. That is where the quote comes in. It is a decision to say yes to God, to make God’s grace and love the center of our lives, to demonstrate a new kind of life in response to the grace that we have received. God has said yes to you and to me. But to be truly transformed, we respond with a “yes” to God and follow that decision with consistent (but not perfect) efforts of faithfulness.

The same is true for our congregation. We could not even begin to list all the many blessings and gifts that God has given to us over our 238-year history. Think of all the changes that our congregation has experienced over that time. And as I often tell you, I am convinced that God is not finished with us yet. Our lives and our church are continuing to be transformed by the grace and love of God. Guided by our Mission Statement and new Strategic Mission Pathways, we have a vision for:

- New staff members for congregational life, engagement, and faith formation, plus calling Liz Corsig as Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
- New fellowship and mission opportunities for delight and sharing the love of Christ
- Maintenance for our facilities that are beginning to show some wear and tear
- Welcome and hospitality for new members and visitors seeking to experience God’s grace and love in their own lives.

It will take faithful and consistent effort by all of us, in response to God’s love and grace, to be and become the church God envisions. I thank you for your generosity of time, talent, and treasure. I ask you to join me in prayerfully considering how you might continue or increase your pledge of support for the 2026-2027 fiscal and program year. I hope you can see the ways God’s transformation is already at work. Through our faithful efforts, may we have eyes to see it and the faith to live it.

See you Sunday!
Matt

OUR RECYCLING EFFORTS ARE GROWING!

In our call to be good stewards of creation, we are growing our recycling here at Unity. In addition to all of the paper we recycle, we are now also recycling our cardboard. This means that we can use even more volunteers to help pick up our recycling each Thursday and take it to the recycling center. Please visit https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CABAD28A0FECF8-57102346-recycling# for more information about how to participate in our efforts to take care of this beautiful creation we live in.



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 March 17th, 2026 Newsletter is Wednesday, March 11th, 2026.

Please welcome the following new members received by session on February 23rd:

Randy & Jan Evans

Brad & Laura Hulbert, with their children, Abby Kate, Julia, & May

Casey & Sarah Zambor, with their children, Nolan, Avery and Logan

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

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.

LATE MARCH BIRTHDAYS

16 -- Evan Hutson; Ken Nunnery; Richie Sharpless

17 -- Dorothy Gambrell; Betsey Lambert; Gabby Oltmann

18 -- Brian Dowd; Thomas Meacham; Bill Reigel

19 -- Mike Bartlett; Dave Grove; Rad David Hudson

21 -- Sharon Fulton; Lydia Hermanns; Haddie Morgan; Brandon Parise

22 -- Harper Benanti; Steve Brown; Beckett Carter; Hunter Hentschke; Dave Johnson; Truette Kimbrell; Leanne Mace; Jonathan Mikulsky

23 -- Vaughan Batchelor; Caitlin Hice; Robbie Jennings; Madelyn Mikulsky

24 -- Alan Conley; Andrew Glenn; Karen Jones; John Ray Kimbrell; John Maloney; Laurie Pessier; Amelia Scott

26 -- Taran Beshers; Sara Meacham; John Pettus; Alexa Spratt

27 -- Donna Batchelor; Tyler Clarke; Carolyn Delaney; Erin Padgett; Chris Walker

28 -- Myra Annan; Susan Bates; Drew Walker

29 -- Joanne Mack; Owen Routh

30 -- J Haskell; Bobby Rogers

31 -- Elizabeth Bowers; Gail O'Shea

A LETTER FROM REV. MOLLY SPANGLER

Dear Friends,

February 9, 2026

I begin this letter with gratitude. Gratitude for four years of ministry we have shared together. Gratitude for the phenomenal colleagues that I have the joy and privilege of working with each week. And gratitude for everyone here at Unity that shares worship and service together in this community of faith. I am thankful every day that I get to wake up and share this call and this journey with you all.

In the four years I have been your Associate Pastor, we have developed trusting pastoral relationships as well as meaningful friendships together. From the first day I arrived here, you all have shared your lives with me; your stories, your big life moments, and your challenging seasons. It is one of the greatest honors I feel as a pastor, to walk alongside members of this congregation during your journeys as we grow and learn together. It is in the trust of these relationships that we have nurtured that I now share about the season of life I find myself in right now.

Since moving to Fort Mill, our family has grown, Kylie and Kate are now five and three years old. They both love school and they both jump headfirst into almost any activity they try. Luke's job has also been growing at Novant Family Medicine in Rock Hill. He is in the midst of adjusting to a much larger patient load after a few colleagues at his practice retired last year. It is hard work, but he has wonderful colleagues and patients that he is grateful for. The community here truly has, and continues to be, a blessing for our entire family.

In the midst of this season of growth and change for our family, I have felt the needs at home growing as well. Therefore, it is after much prayer and discernment, I would like to request your support and approval to adjust my call to $\frac{3}{4}$ time here at Unity as your Associate Pastor. I still very much feel called to continue to share ministry with you all. I believe there is much of our journey to still travel together. By adjusting my hours, I am seeking to respond to the increased call I have to my family, while at the same time continuing to be honest and engaged in my call as a pastor. I believe a few more hours at home each week will enable me to be more fully present with my family, as well as my church family here at Unity.

Thank you all for your consideration of this request, and for the careful care and attention you give to all of our staff.

Peace and love,
Rev. Molly Spangler

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - MARCH 29TH

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for **Sunday, March 29th**, immediately following both worship services for the purpose of:

- Electing the 2026 Nominating Committee - those who will be nominated to serve will be shared as soon as all are identified.
- To approve changes to the terms of call of Rev. Molly Spangler. Molly has requested permission to adjust her hours and terms of call to a $\frac{3}{4}$ time position to enable her to more fully respond to both her call to ministry at Unity and her call to her family in this season of life.

WELCOME (BACK) REV. JEANNIE BICKETT - PARISH ASSOCIATE FOR PASTORAL CARE

On April 1st, Unity Presbyterian Church is delighted to welcome back to the church staff the Rev. Jeannie Bickett as Parish Associate for Pastoral Care. Many in our church may remember that Jeannie served as Associate Pastor at Unity for 24 years before her retirement in September 2019. As parish associate, Jeannie will work up to 15 hours a week focusing on pastoral care with senior adults as well as helping to coordinate the grief care and caregiving small groups. She will also participate in worship from time to time and share her gifts in other ways as the Holy Spirit leads. Welcome home Jeannie! We are grateful for this opportunity to serve together again!

JOIN OUR MINISTRY TEAM - COORDINATOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND ENGAGEMENT

Do you love Unity Presbyterian Church? Do you enjoy helping others find places to learn, grow, delight, and serve? Are you organized and dedicated? Is God calling you or someone you know to join our ministry team? In response to our growing congregation and new Strategic Mission Pathway to “Cultivate Belonging and Commitment,” Unity Presbyterian Church is seeking a **Coordinator for Congregational Life and Engagement**. This will be a part-time, 20-hour per week position. In collaboration with the Hospitality and Evangelism Ministry Team, the Fellowship Ministry Team, and the Health Ministry Team, the Coordinator will oversee Unity Presbyterian Church’s ministries of helping those seeking a church home become new members and faithful followers of Jesus Christ; congregational fellowship and joy; nurturing health and wholeness in body and spirit; and other ways to deepen relationships and connections with Christ and one another. For more information and/or to apply, contact Dr. Matt Rich - mrich@unityfortmill.org.

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 22nd.** They will be listed in a booklet which will be available in the Narthex on March 29th.

STEWARDSHIP 2026 - TRANSFORMED BY LOVE

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being.” ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV

This year’s Stewardship Emphasis and Campaign kicks off Sunday, March 1st and will continue through Commitment Sunday on March 22nd. We invite you to make a pledge of your time, talents, and treasure as we receive the transformations, through love, that God has in store for us.



Here are some important notes:

- To save Unity’s postage costs pick up your Stewardship Packet full of information, narrative budget, and pledge cards in the hallway off the Narthex between March 1 – March 8.
- Listen for the Moments for Stewardship that will be shared by members of Unity in worship on March 1, 8, 15, and 22.
- Visit <https://unityfortmill.org/give/stewardship/> to review all stewardship information for your pledge of time, talent, and financial gifts.
- Celebrate on March 22nd: Stewardship Commitment Sunday with communion and your commitment to God’s work through Unity.

For those who like working online:

- You can also communicate your Time & Talent 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” they will be sent directly to team leaders.
- You can set up your Financial Pledge by logging into REALM. To enter your pledge, choose “+ Pledge”, enter your pledge and press “Save Pledge”.
- To set up Online Giving after logging into REALM press “+ Give”, enter the amount and press “Multiple Times”, set up frequency and a beginning and end date. If you want to give perpetually until you make a change do not enter an end date. Press “Continue” and enter the source of funds and press “Give”.

HOW IS YOUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH?

Did you know our church website has daily devotions? The scripture and focus of the devotions point to the sermon on the following Sunday. This helps us prepare our hearts for the message and keeps us living in the Word. Devotions are posted daily at 7:00 a.m. and can be found on our Facebook page @UnityFortMill, or on our website at <https://unityfortmill.org/connect/devotions/>.



MEN’S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry will have its monthly breakfast meeting on **Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Please join us for this time of fellowship, breakfast, devotion, and discussion of ways to serve.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

TRANSFORMED BY LOVE: STEWARDSHIP 2026—BY CATHEY MILLER

I'm Cathey Miller. My family (dad, mom, younger brother and I) moved from Charlotte to Fort Mill in 1966. Shortly afterwards, we joined Unity. There weren't many youth activities, Sunday night youth group and Catechism Class (Confirmation Class), but I attended church every Sunday, until I graduated high school.



The next sixteen years were filled with school, career, moves to FL and TX, marriage, divorce, loss of self and loss of faith. I was sure God had turned his back on me. With some serious soul searching and lifestyle changes, I became aware and came to understand that I had in fact turned my back on Him, not the other way around. I returned to Fort Mill, and to Unity, where everyone welcomed me with open arms and hearts. At that time, I felt God's love for me and true peace of mind and heart. I knew I had truly returned "home".

I enjoy getting together with older members who have been a part of my life for many years. While we talk about many things, how the church has grown and changed is usually a hot topic. God has truly blessed us as a church with so many new members, including adults, youth, children and infants. I love greeting at Sunday services because I get to say hello to old and new members and welcome visitors to Unity. The Welcome Coffees and Connections Class allow me the opportunity to share my love of Unity and God with visitors. My hope is: if I have met you, I have welcomed or greeted you with a heartfelt hello, firm handshake, a warm hug or all three!

As God continues to change my life and faith and ours together as the church, I hope you will join me with your pledge of time, talent and treasures to the ministry of Christ at Unity on Commitment Sunday March 22nd.

In Christ's service,
Cathey Miller

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS



Children's Choirs started this past Sunday, but it's not too late to join us! We will rehearse three more Sundays and then finish the choir year by singing in worship on Palm Sunday, March 29th. Cherub Choir is open to children who turned four by September 1, 2025 through first grade and practices from 2:00-2:45 in the handbell room. Covenant Choir meets from 3:00-3:45 in the choir room and is open to grades 2-5. Children who will be in 4K next school year are also welcome to come try out choir! **Parents, please register any children singing for the first time this school year on Realm** (returning singers do not need to register again). Contact Margaret Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org or 547-5543 with any questions. <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/PublicRegistrations/Event?>

MUSIC CAMP 2026

During the recent Winter intercession, Unity hosted our first ever Music Camp! 26 campers came together each morning for worship, music, art, recreation, and snacks. In four days, they learned, rehearsed, and performed the musical *Called* by Mark Burrows. In doing so, they learned that God has a call for each of us. God calls us no matter how old or young we are, how smart or talented we are, or what we look like. And that call will be where our passion and interests meet a need in the world.

In the musical, the characters decide they are being called to make a difference by taking up a collection. Our campers decided the collection would benefit the Humane Society of York County. Audience members were asked to bring dog and cat food, kitty litter, pet toys, paper towels, and garbage bags for the Humane Society, and they responded very generously!

Many thanks to all of our fantastic adult and youth helpers: Stephanie Berens, Vereen Brown, Steve Chase, Caroline Cole, Libby Jane Egnor, Jill Grossoehme, Kaitlyn Hall, Betsy Knight, Shannon McGann, Kathryn McGregor, Lily Pettus, Brian Rayl, Lynne Rayl, Matt Rich, Rachel Scott, Hunter Smith, Jennifer Smith, Molly Spangler, Christy Stephens, Patsy Surratt, Dannie Vaughn, Zeno Wall, Katherine Weller, Chelsea Whitten, and Carolyn Wright.

Thanks to a generous gift in memory of Joan Thomasson (1954-2025) made by her family, we were able to offer Music Camp to the children of Unity and our community free of charge.

Margaret Monroe, Director of Music



REGISTER NOW FOR VBS & MISSION CAMP

VBS will be held Monday, June 15th—Thursday, June 18th from 9:00 a.m. – noon each day. This year's theme is *Snowball Mountain Challenge: Find Your Strength in God*. Based on the theme verse, Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", children will come to realize that with the strength God provides, they can share their gifts, be brave, give their all, pray, and hope. Children who will be 4 by August 31st, 2026 through Rising 4th grade are invited to join us on this exciting winter sports event where they become Challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith. Rising 5th and 6th grades are invited to Mission Camp at VBS, a fun-filled week of exploring the VBS Bible stories and seeing how those stories send us out to serve each day in our Fort Mill Community, which will run concurrently with VBS. Registration is now open for Unity families, grandchildren of Unity members, and Unity Preschool families. Registration opens to other community members on March 12th and will close on April 1st or when filled, if before then. Visit <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/Registrations/Registrants/768cf3c1-ca8f-4e19-afb8-b3e700fb360a?congregantView=True> to register.



VBS PLANNING IS UNDERWAY! SIGN UP NOW TO SERVE

We need a large group of adult and youth to make VBS successful. From shepherding to leading recreation, art, serving snacks, sharing the Bible stories as a storyteller to decorating, there's a way everyone can use their gifts to serve. Find out more and sign up to help us make this summer the best VBS ever! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA9AF22A4FE3-62333984-vbs2026#/>



EASTER EGG HUNTS!

UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR AN EASTER EGG HUNT!

<p>Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt & S'mores event FRIDAY, MARCH 20 6:45-8:15 pm For 3rd-5th Graders Register on Realm by March 16</p>	<p>Traditional Easter Egg Hunt SATURDAY, MARCH 21 10:00 am For all ages No registration needed</p>
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For both events, meet in the Fellowship Hall for games, activities, and an egg hunt.

GROWING CHRISTIANS - WINTER 2026

GROWING CHRISTIANS (GCs)

Winter 2026
For all 4th & 5th graders

What is GCs?

GCs is a fellowship group for 4th and 5th graders. It meets seasonally on Sunday afternoons for games, fellowship, and devotions.

Where do we meet?

Room M208
Drop off in the Fellowship Hall parking lot beside the Courtyard.

When do we meet?

Sundays from 4-5 pm



February 22
March 1
March 8
March 15



**GC's Cookout/
5th Grade Celebration**
April 26
5:00-6:30 pm

Questions? Contact Kathryn McGregor 803-547-5543 kmcgregor@UnityFortMill.org

UNITY YOUTH HIGH SCHOOL HONDURAS TRIP 2026

9 high school youth and 5 adult leaders spent a life-changing week with our mission partners in Honduras! We made countless new friends, worked hard on housing projects, and were reminded of the connection we have to one another in the body of Christ. We are so grateful for this opportunity and for the prayers and support from our congregation that made this trip possible!



ALL-CHURCH CHILI COOK-OFF HOSTED BY UNITY YOUTH!

JOIN THE UNITY YOUTH 2026 LENT CHALLENGE!



Thank you to all the fierce competitors and judges that showed up to participate in our All-Church Chili Cook-Off! Fun was had by all! Congratulations to the 2026 Chili Cook-Off Champion: Charlie Lake!

UNITY YOUTH
2026 LENT CHALLENGE

Sign-up to receive a daily text message during all 40 days of Lent with prompts designed to invite you into deeper relationship with God and others!

Sign up now to receive a daily text message during all 40 days of Lent with prompts designed to invite you into deeper relationship with God and others. Text LENT2026 to the number 84576 to join us. The challenge **began on Ash Wednesday and is open to all!**

BETHELWOODS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Proudly Presents Our Second Annual

Bethelwoods



Bowties

MAY 2, 2026

HORTON LODGE

922 WEST MT. GALLANT ROAD, YORK, SC

6PM to 11PM

TOP SHELF BOURBON | LOCAL BREWERY
CURATED MENU | DANCING
SILENT AUCTION

PURCHASE TABLES
AND TICKETS





Go MAD Day

(Go Make-A-Difference Day)

Save the Date!
 Saturday
 April 18, 2026

You're invited to a day of
 service for the entire
 congregation.



Providence Presbytery Leaderfest Seminar March 28, 2026

Unity Presbyterian Church / 303 Tom Hall St / Fort Mill, SC 29715

Presented by Stephen Ministries, St. Louis, featuring Joel Bretscher

The mental health crisis has been a growing challenge in society for decades, with numerous proposed solutions that have fallen short of resolving the problem. Building on more than two years of research, Stephen Ministries St. Louis has developed a bold new approach for the church to make a far-reaching difference in this area. Come and hear about this unexpected, powerful way for you, your small group, and all of our congregations to help solve the mental health crisis.

Schedule

- 8:30–9:00 a.m. **Check-In and Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m.–Noon **Presentations**
 - How Your Congregation Can Help Combat the Health Crisis: A New, Expanded Approach
 - What Jesus Teaches Us about Empathy
- Noon–12:45 p.m. **Lunch (included with registration)**
 - Optional Presentation on Getting a Church Involved with Stephen Ministry
- 12:45–3:00 p.m. **Presentations**
 - Unexpected Ways to Care
 - What We've Learned about Grief and Relating to Those Who Are Grieving



Scan the QR code on the Left to Register

\$20 registration fee

Space is limited. Pre-Registration by March 21 is requested.



Joel Bretscher has been a member of the staff at Stephen Ministries in St. Louis since 1995. As Program Director, Joel leads the writing and editing team in the development of books, videos, training materials, courses, and other resources.

He is the lead author of *The Gift of Empathy* and coauthor of *Caring Assertiveness*, both award-winning books.

CHANGE TO REALM ONLINE GIVING—WHERE DID THE PROCESSING COST OFFSET GO?

How would you like to give, Pamela?

Contribute an extra \$10.00 to help offset processing costs.

- Checking***
- Checking****
- EFT
- New Payment Method

Your extra contributions to offset online giving processing costs help to reduce our budget spending. In a recent software update, Realm moved the option to include the cost at the top of the payment method page.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



"I thank God every day for leading me to my Stephen Minister. When we began our caring relationship, I was slowly coming out of the numbness I felt after the shattering of my marriage. Her patience, her listening ear, and her willingness to serve have completely changed the trajectory of my life.

Without a doubt, accepting care from my church's Stephen Ministry has been the best decision of my life. Everyone should be able to have a Stephen Minister when they need one – it's an amazing model of how the body of Christ can work. God is truly being glorified through their service everywhere!"
(From a Stephen Minister care receiver at another church)

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk 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.

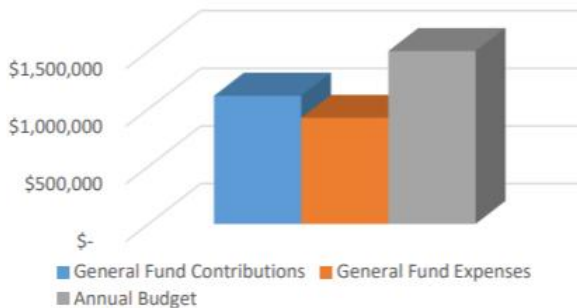
DID YOU KNOW?

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 do 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 carries **both a transaction fee** for each transaction **and a processing fee** as a percentage of the transaction.

YEAR TO DATE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Year to Date Contributions & Expenses
Compared with the Annual Budget



	January 2026	July 2025 through Jan 2026	% of Annual Budget	5-Year Average
General Fund Contributions	\$ 121,147	\$ 1,111,704	65.2%	\$ 966,728
General Fund Expenses	130,130	920,020	53.9%	828,998
Annual Budget		1,705,640	100.0%	1,569,561

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

2026 SANCTUARY FLOWERS SIGN UP

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.

Dates for 2026 are available on Sign-Up Genius for reserving a Sunday to place flowers in the sanctuary. You may visit <https://bit.ly/2026-Flower-Calendar> and complete the steps for selecting your choice of Sunday(s). All instructions are included. If you have questions, please contact Michaela Braswell at mbraswell@UnityFortMill.org or 803-547-5543 ext. 130).

Early sign-up is recommended to ensure the Sunday of your choice.

"We are all flowers in God's Garden." - Karen Sweeney-Ryall



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.