

Life at Unity

May 19, 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

In this season of graduations and transitions, I am reminded of the big goals and dreams that we often carry with us. There is no doubt that the needs of the world and the church are great, and so are the expectations we place on graduates. And yet, I'm also mindful that such big goals, dreams, problems, and concerns can leave us wondering how to start. Presbyterian singer and songwriter David LaMotte puts it well in his book *Worldchanging 101*, when he suggests: "What am I supposed to do with my life? is not really a useful question; the enormity of it is overwhelming and immobilizing. A better question may be, "What do I do next?"

Throughout scripture God accomplishes big plans and dreams by using regular, ordinary folks just like you and me. Do you remember the story of Tabitha in Acts 9:36-43? She lived in the town of Joppa and "was devoted to good works and acts of charity." When she died, the church reached out to the apostle Peter to come and help, gathering to show him all the clothing and other works that she had made. Peter puts the members of the church outside, prays, and then takes Tabitha by the hand and says "get up" or "be raised." And she was brought back to life.

While I doubt that any of us have the spiritual gift of resurrection like Peter, I suspect we might all be able to identify with Tabitha. As New Testament scholar NT Wright has written:

[Tabitha] stands in for all the unsung heroines who have got on with what they can do best and have done it to the glory of God. Had it not been for Peter she might never have made it into the pages of the New Testament, and we have to assume that there were dozens in the early years, and thousands in later years, who, like her, lived their lives in faith and hope, bearing the sorrows of life no doubt as well as celebrating its joys, and finding in the small acts of service to others a fulfillment of the gospel within their own sphere, using traditional skills to the glory of God. ... This is the heart of the church ... the beating heart of the people of God. (*Acts for Everyone, Part 1, p 154-155*)

Yes, in this season of graduations and transitions, that is what we might all long to be - the heart of the church. In the days to come, I encourage you to seek to be the beating heart of the people of God. Come to worship. Join a bible study. Volunteer with the babies in the nursery. Visit someone who cannot make it to worship on their own. Get a group of friends to play music once a month at a nursing home or health care facility. Read to an at-risk child once a week after school. Coach a youth sports team. Call your mother and actually talk to her on the phone. Ask your pastor the hard questions swirling around in your mind. Don't let your acts of kindness be random, be intentionally kind. Have lunch with someone of another race or from another country. Plant a garden and share what you grow. Serve faithfully. Love boldly and completely. On your way to great things, dream and act small.

For great things will come in God's time. But the church's witness to Jesus Christ depends on small acts of faith. Keep the faith and act small. Be the beating heart of the people 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 2nd Newsletter is Wednesday, May 27th, 2026.

UNITY WELCOMES GLORIA WEATHERS AS A PART-TIME SEXTON



Gloria will be working Saturdays and Sundays. Please take time to introduce yourself to her! We are glad to have her as a part of our staff here at Unity!

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; Taylor Johnson

2 -- Bonnie Christensen; Lyn Evans; Paul McIntyre; Katie Reaves; 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; Lynn Redmon

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

7 -- Phil Hereford; Laura Jamison; Mary Johnson; Christy Stephens

8 -- Alex Lovette; Joshua McCabe; Reagan McCabe

9 -- Tara Bolettieri; Angela Chamberlain; Penny Hudson

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

11 -- Adam Helms; Gus Lubanski

12 -- Callahan Hennessy; Jill Kim; Teague True; Luke Weaver

13 -- Randy Grantham

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

15 -- Benjamin Sullivan; Sarah Zambor

SUMMER 2026 WORSHIP AND FAITH FORMATION SERIES "THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE ..."



Throughout the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus sets out an alternative vision of what life together should be and look like for the people of God and for the world. He calls it "The Kingdom of Heaven." Primarily through parables, Jesus offers his disciples hope and a vision of how God intends the world to be. This summer, in both worship and all-church faith formation, we will explore this vision together and with God's grace and help, be invited to join God in bringing that vision to life in our world today around the theme "The Kingdom of Heaven is like ..."

May 31 - The Kingdom of Heaven and "What is a Parable?"

June 7 - Wheat, Weeds, and the Parable of the Sower

June 14 - Leaven and Mustard Seeds

June 21 - Hidden Treasure and a Merchant in search of fine pearls

June 28 - A king who wished to settle accounts and a Net

July 5 - A Landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers

July 12 - A King who gave a Wedding Banquet

July 19 - Ten Young Women going to meet a Bridegroom

All Church Faith Formation will be held at **10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, May 31st, and continuing each Sunday through June 28th.** All ages are welcome, and nursery is provided for children age 3 and under.

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. EACH SUNDAY IN JULY

As it is such a joy to gather our whole congregation for worship together, we will once again hold a single worship service each week at 10:00 a.m. 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 a.m. each Sunday in July** - and come early because it means the sanctuary will be full each week!

UNITY MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

It's time to dust off your glove and warm up your arm for Unity's Men's Softball team. We play in the Fort Mill Parks & Recreation Church Softball League. Over the last couple of years, the team has played 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. Depending on the number interested, we might be able to fill two teams this year with more playing time for everyone. 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.



LUNCH BUNCH - END OF YEAR PICNIC

Lunch Bunch has had another enjoyable year, and May is already upon us. We are looking forward to our end of year picnic at Allison Creek Park, 2499 Viesta Road, York, SC. We will meet on **Wednesday, May 20th**. The plans are to **eat at 12:00 noon**. All York County residents get into the park for free by showing their driver's license. The menu will be hot dogs and fixings. There is plenty of seating at the picnic tables, but if you would enjoy sitting in the sun, bring a chair. See you there!



FAITH@250 SMALL GROUPS



The United States will celebrate
its 250th birthday on July 4, 2026.

Faith@250 Small Groups

On July 4th, 2026, the United States of America will celebrate its 250th Anniversary. There will be parades and fireworks; times to remember and times to dream; moments that draw us together and moments that expose the deep divisions that plague our national experiment. Drawing on resources from Faith 250, an interfaith collection of clergy and religious leaders, Dr. Matt invites members of our congregation and community to come together in fellowship and meaningful conversation around the common core and values that undergird our life as people of faith in this moment of national celebration. Learn more and register on REALM: <https://bit.ly/4t426zD>. Please choose from either Monday nights from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. or Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Dr. Matt with any questions.

WEAR RED AND CELEBRATE PENTECOST WITH US!

Everyone is invited to the **Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 24th** for an All-Church Pentecost Celebration. Through interactive reflection stations, we will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Christian church. Wear Red and be a part of this joyous celebration. No registration is needed. All ages welcome. A nursery will be provided for children 3 and under.



HEALTH CORNER: Why Walking is The Most Underrated Form of Exercise

As reported by NBC News, walking has tremendous benefits. Walking improves fitness, cardiac health, alleviates depression and fatigue, improves mood, creates less stress on joints and reduces pain, can prevent weight gain, reduce risk for cancer and chronic disease, improve endurance, circulation, and posture, and the list goes on... Walking is also a way of caring for the life God has given us. When we move our bodies, we show up with more strength for our families, more presence for our friends, and more energy for the work God calls us to do.

THE LOST & FOUND IS FILLING UP AGAIN



Before you pack for your summer vacations, check to see if a missing item is there.

Location: In the hallway adjacent to the sanctuary, next to the door leading into the sanctuary near the pulpit.

Items remaining on June 30th will be donated to charity.

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

WAX MUSEUM SHARED STORIES OF CHILDREN IN THE BIBLE

Thank you to all who supported our 3rd-5th grade children by visiting our Wax Museum on May 10th. We learned that there are not very many stories about children in the Bible and most of the ones told are about boys! Some were familiar to us and some were not. We hope you learned something new and grew in your understanding of God's ability to use even a little child to further the kingdom of God. We sure did!



HELP TURN OUR CHURCH INTO A WINTER WONDERLAND AT VBS



In addition to needing all the empty paper towel rolls you can donate, we also are looking for some items that would be loaned for the week and returned. It takes a village to host an exciting and engaging Bible School each summer for the children of our church and community. If you have any of the items listed on the SignUpGenius and would allow us to borrow during the week of VBS, please sign up at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4DA5AC2CA6F85-63841107-unity#//](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4DA5AC2CA6F85-63841107-unity#/)! Make sure you put your first and last name on a piece of tape on the item so we can return to you. Please place items in Room M207 before June 12th. We will let you know when they are ready for pick-up after VBS. Questions? Contact our VBS Co-Decorating Coordinators, Krista Renken & Eve Dowling (478-733-2625 or renkenkrista@gmail.com)

GRADUATE SUNDAY 2026

It was such a joy to celebrate our 2026 high school graduates during worship on Sunday, May 17th. Thank you for surrounding this group of young people with your prayers and love. May they each know that Holy Spirit goes with them always, and that Unity Presbyterian Church will forever be their faith family.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH LOCK-IN

ALL CURRENT 5TH-8TH GRADERS



Middle School Youth LOCK-IN

KICK-OFF THE SUMMER
GAMES UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES
FOOD

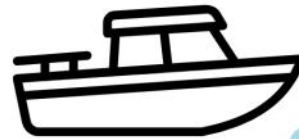
FRIDAY, MAY 29TH

MEET AT THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 7PM.
PICK-UP FROM THE YOUTH WING BY 9AM ON SATURDAY.
BRING AN AIR MATTRESS, PILLOW, AND SLEEPING BAG!
REGISTRATION CLOSES ON FRIDAY, MAY 22ND.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/4sGnuKL>

HS LAKE DAY

UNITY YOUTH
HIGH SCHOOL LAKE DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH
1:30 - 5:30 PM
REGISTRATION & DETAILS ON REALM!



Register now for High School Lake Day! -
<https://bit.ly/HSLakeDayReg>

FAMILY PROMISE OF YORK COUNTY - VOLUNTEERS

Unity has been working with Family Promise of York County for many years. Family Promise provides displaced families with a place to stay, while giving them the tools to develop long-term self-sufficiency, independence, and success.



Every six weeks we host families at Unity for a week. Each evening, we need two volunteers to feed the families and two to spend the night with them. We also need volunteers to grocery shop, set up and take down the guest sleeping areas, and do laundry after our hosting week. **Our next hosting begins on Sunday, May 31st and goes through Sunday, June 7th.** If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Dannie Vaughn at vaughndl@comporium.net.

UNITY ENDOWMENT PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR FUNDS



On May 11th, the Endowment Board authorized the distribution of up to \$30,000 for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year. If your ministry team would like to fund a program or activity not funded by the budget, please submit the [attached application](#) to Pam Bright, Financial Manager by August 4th. Applications can also be found in the rack on the wall in the hallway next to the sanctuary. Distribution requests will be reviewed by the Endowment Board and announced on Endowment Sunday, September 13th. The Board will accept distribution requests after August 4th, but additional funds may not be available until after June 30th, 2027. For more information about the distribution timeline [click here](#). You may also visit <https://unityfortmill.org/endowment-did-you-know/> to access the documents.

TRANSFORMED BY LOVE - STEWARDSHIP 2026

THANK YOU everyone who made a commitment to share their time, talent, and financial resources with Unity’s ministry as part of this year’s campaign. The ministry and programs of our church are only possible through your generous support.



1) Time and Talent interests are being shared with ministry team leaders while plans are being finalized for the 2026-2027 program year.

2) We currently have effective pledges that total just above **\$1,621,244**. Coupled with our projected starting cash funds, this level of projected giving puts us in a good position for funding next year’s budget, of **\$1,826,192**, a 7.4% increase over our 2025 -2026 budget. Our ministry leaders and staff continue to work hard to manage costs and be good stewards of the financial resources entrusted to them.

3) Increases in the budget will fund:

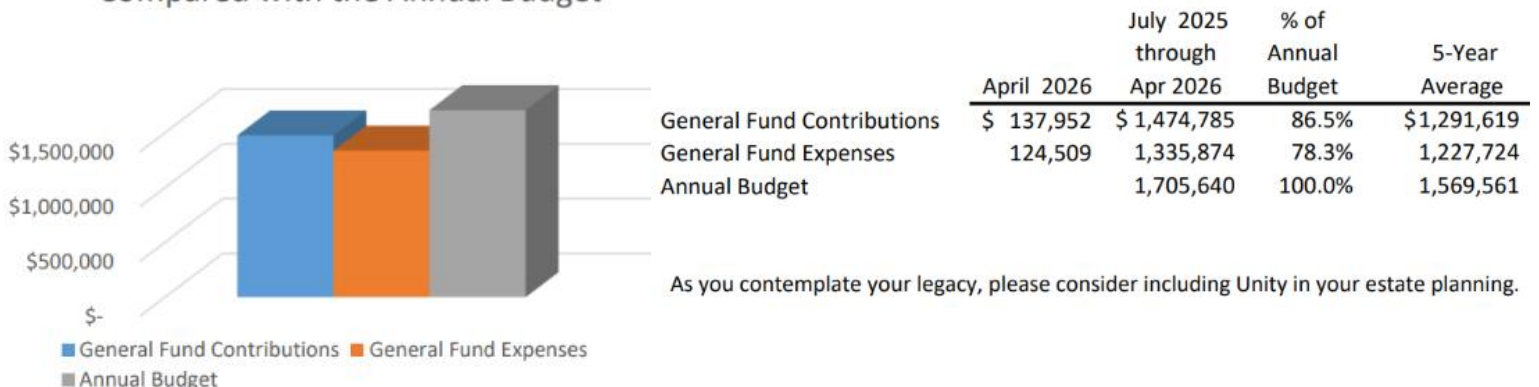
- * Increasing our support of Unity’s outreach partnerships, helping those in need both physically and financially.
- * Increasing our support for our growing children and youth ministries.
- * Providing additional staff support and providing all our talented staff with the raises needed to keep up with the rising cost of living.
- * Attending to the replacement of older HVAC systems and carpeting.
- * Addressing the general rising cost of ministry in areas such as maintenance, utilities, and insurance costs.

This is the sixth consecutive year of increase in your level of pledged giving. You have, once again, enthusiastically responded to our campaign, and we are very thankful for this generosity! We look forward to this next program year as we continue to share the love of Jesus with each other and our neighbors.

“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

YEAR-TO-DATE 2025-2026 BUDGET UPDATE

Year to Date Contributions & Expenses
Compared with the Annual Budget



STEPHEN MINISTRY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

A very important aspect of Stephen Ministry is confidentiality. Stephen Ministers go through exceptional training in all aspects of being a Stephen Minister, and they learn that quality care means keeping confidences when another shares them. Nothing that the care receiver might say goes beyond the Stephen Minister. Confidentiality is crucial in Stephen Ministry! You can trust a Stephen Minister.

When you need a Stephen Minister, please contact 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 for you!



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

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

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.

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.