

# Life at Unity

May 06, 2026



## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

We had a wonderful trip to Scotland on our Spiritual Pilgrimage. Thank you for your prayers and support while we were gone and I hope that you were able to follow our progress through the pictures and descriptions we posted on the church's Facebook and Instagram pages.

While there are too many things and times to count from the trip for me to say that any one day or place was my "favorite," I will say that it was a unique experience to climb up into the pulpit where John Knox preached a fiery sermon in the Holy Trinity Church in St. Andrews during the early days of the Scottish Reformation. Knox had studied with John Calvin in Geneva and returned to Scotland to bring reformation to the church and the monarchy there. He preached at various churches and congregations, including one we visited in Perth. Almost everywhere he went his sermons would focus on idolatry and faith. Almost everywhere he went the people were fired up and began to riot. In 1559 he preached from the pulpit where I stood and the people responded by going to the St. Andrews Cathedral where they proceed to pull down statues, destroy stained glass windows, and remove the relics thought to be bones of Jesus' disciple Andrew.

After standing in that pulpit in St. Andrews, I realized that I have never had the experience of people rioting after one of my sermons. But I suspect that is generally not the point I am aiming for. And yet, I do hope that after hearing a sermon in the pulpit at Unity Presbyterian Church, both I as the preacher and you as the congregation are moved to act. Perhaps you're encouraged to read the scriptures more deeply. Maybe you are encouraged to speak to someone else about your faith or what you've heard. Perhaps you are inspired to act on behalf of someone in need or who finds themselves in trouble. Maybe you will rededicate yourself to following Jesus. But I hope that preaching is not just interesting. I hope that it changes your life, even if, in just small but significant ways.

One final note about that pulpit. In the picture you can see an iron holder on the front. That was an hourglass stand. So, the preacher would know how long they'd been preaching, someone would turn the hourglass when they began. Two or three turns of the glass (so two or three hours for the sermon) was not uncommon. Just to assure you, I'll not be recommending adding an hourglass stand to our pulpit at Unity. I cannot imagine preaching (or you listening to me drone on) that long!

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 May 19th Newsletter is Wednesday, May 13th, 2026.

## PLEASE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED BY SESSION ON APRIL 27TH

- Al & Sara Louise Dunn
- Paul & Janet Lundy
- Jesse & Hannah Tuma, with their daughter, Isabella
- Hunter & Abbey Whitworth, with their daughter, Norah
- Gavin & Candice Witherspoon, with their son, Tripp

For more information on "What's Happening" at Unity, please visit...

[www.unityfortmill.org/whats-happening/](http://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](http://www.UnityFortMill.org)

Instagram: @UnityFortMill

Facebook: @UnityFortMill

Be sure to "like" our page.

## LATE MAY BIRTHDAYS

16 -- James Ennis; Katelyn Evans; Evelyn Hice; Elizabeth Leventis; Rick Shannon

17 -- Jennifer Estes; Kristain McCabe; Emily Reaves

18 -- Rad Hudson; Michelle Meyer; Seth Nordgren; Jackson Rozelle; Chelsea Whitten

19 -- Frank Miller; Chalmers Rogers; Rosie Wright

20 -- John Clark; Vickey Fulton; Liz Hood; Elliott Norman; Jan Norman; Grey Young

21 -- Hunter Egnor; John Fulton; Alice Hart; Alice White

22 -- Alex Kimbrell; Ashley Trueb

23 -- Gregory Louise Cook; Kate Dasher; Meredith Hattaway; Brenda Mullis; Alta Routh; Jackie Wall; Mackenzie Williams; Thomas Windell

24 -- Beth Anderson; Morgan Matinata; Patsy Surratt

25 -- Jordyn Friedman; Susan Hereford; Blakely Martin; Laura Sizemore

26 -- Frank Anderson

27 -- Georgia Kern

28 -- Margaret Gribble; Jeremy Lopuch; Brandi Spratt; Jerry Watkins; Jack Windell

29 -- Mary Anna Alessandro; Miranda Hopkins; Julia Hulbert; Lana McDonald; Brenda Stewart

30 -- Mary Martin

31 -- Michelle Hoffman; Karen Wright

## CALLING LIZ CORSIG AS ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS - NEXT STEPS

What a great joy it was on Sunday to officially call Liz Corsig to be Unity's next Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults. It has long been my hope and the Session's goal to return to three full-time called and installed pastors here at Unity. Liz's faith, leadership, contagious joy, hospitality, and commitment to the faith of each and every young person are already an outstanding gift to Unity Presbyterian Church and Fort Mill, so we are grateful to be able to take this step in our life and ministry.

There are a few steps remaining in the process for Liz. Thank you for your prayers as she and Unity walk together through each one:

- **Sunday, May 17th** - Providence Presbytery Meeting - Liz will preach during worship that afternoon and then be asked questions in areas of theology, worship and sacraments, Presbytery polity, and leadership. The Presbytery (including our commissioners from Unity) will then vote to approve Liz for ordination and to be installed at Unity, pending her graduation from seminary.
- **Saturday, June 27th** - Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Graduation - Liz will graduate with two degrees, a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Christian Education.
- **Sunday, August 30th at 4:00 PM** - Ordination and Installation Service at Unity Presbyterian Church. This will be a day of great celebration as we gather for worship to surround Liz with our prayers and a Commission from Providence Presbytery (along with a few guests) will officially ordain and install Liz as Associate Pastor here at Unity. Following the service, we'll have a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

## 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](mailto: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 250<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 4, 2026.

### Faith@250 Small Groups

A five-week series led by Dr. Matt Rich discussing the common core and values that undergird our life as people of faith in this moment of national celebration.

Two class options:

1. Mondays, June 1 - 29, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
2. Tuesdays, June 2 - 30, 2:30 - 4:00 pm

Open to members of our congregation  
and community

Learn more and register on Realm. Registration  
closes May 25.

Register at <https://bit.ly/4t426zD>

### HEALTH CORNER: LET'S TAKE A WALK!

The flowers are in bloom, warmer temperatures have arrived, and our beautiful spring weather is here to be enjoyed! What better way to enjoy these gorgeous days than to get outside and take a walk in your neighborhood, on the Greenway, or on a trail you've been meaning to explore! If you'd like some company plan to join Unity Hikers on most Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Check the Unity Facebook page for time and location, or to receive weekly notifications, contact Mike Brown at [mkb561801@gmail.com](mailto:mkb561801@gmail.com) to be placed on the email list.



### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Ministry will have its monthly breakfast meeting on **Tuesday, May 12th, 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.

## MAY/JUNE SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

- May 10 - Wax Museum presented by 3rd-5th graders - Everyone is encouraged to come support them
- May 17 - All-Church Congregational Breakfast to honor our High School Graduates
- May 24 - All-Church Pentecost Celebration
- May 31 - June 28 - All-Church Faith Formation - "The Kingdom of God is like..."

## PARENTS ARE INVITED TO CIW OPEN HOUSE ON MAY 17TH



Parents of Rising 4K children or parents new to Unity with children in going into 4K, Kindergarten, or 1st grade are invited to attend "Children in Worship" Open House for Parents **during either service on May 17th**. Your children can begin attending CIW on June 7th. Parent Orientation is your opportunity to come see what CIW is all about before your children begin attending.

Questions? Please contact Kathryn McGregor at [KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org](mailto:KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org).

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

YOU'RE INVITED TO A WAX MUSEUM

## JOIN US FOR A WAX MUSEUM



Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am  
in the Fellowship Hall

Our annual Wax Museum will be performed by our  
3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Faith Formation class.

The whole congregation is invited!



## UNITY YOUTH END-OF-YEAR PARTY!

Middle & high school youth had a great time celebrating the end of another year of being the church together! We are so grateful to be part of a faith family that care deeply for young people and provides opportunities for faith formation and connection. We can't wait for an awesome, busy summer together!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH LOCK-IN

ALL CURRENT 5<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS



# Middle School Youth LOCK-IN

KICK-OFF THE SUMMER  
GAMES UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES  
FOOD

**FRIDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>**

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 CLOSING ON FRIDAY, MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>.

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

## YOUNG ADULT DESSERT



CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS &  
COLLEGE-AGED YOUNG ADULTS

# Young Adult Dessert

Hosted by  
**MAY 19** | Georgia, Gus, & HK Sharpless | **7:00 PM**  
RSVP to Liz Corsig (704-340-2171)  
Address provided upon RSVP.

## 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](mailto:vaughndl@comporium.net).

## EARTH CARE CONGREGATION



As we celebrated Earth Day on April 22nd, it seems an appropriate time to consider whether Unity is being called to become a more involved steward of God's earth. In 1990, the General Assembly of the PC(USA) adopted Restoring Creation and Justice and, in doing so, recognized and accepted that restoring creation is a central concern of the church, and it should be incorporated into its life at every level. The GA invited congregations to participate in a certification program based on the "Earth Care Pledge", hence becoming Earth Care Congregations. To date, over 370 congregations around the USA have been certified. At Unity, our first step would be to form a small team to complete an audit of our current situation at Unity and to plan a few ongoing steps. If this is an area of interest to you and you would like to participate in this initial study, please contact Rev. Molly Spangler ([mspangler@unityfortmill.org](mailto:mspangler@unityfortmill.org)), Elizabeth Watson, Dave Johnson ([david67johnson@yahoo.com](mailto:david67johnson@yahoo.com)), or the

church office at 803.547.5543. Additional information is available by picking up a brochure in the Narthex or by going to <https://pcusa.org/resource/earth-care-congregations-guide-greening-churches>.

## GO MAKE-A-DIFFERENCE DAY

This year's Go MAD Day was a meaningful day of service and fellowship. We had over 70 volunteers, of all ages, from our congregation volunteering on Saturday, April 18th, to work on three mission projects. One team made 80 beautifully designed care-cards. These cards were then signed on Sunday morning and mailed out to homebound members of our congregation. The remaining cards were also signed and going to be shared with local first responders and medical personnel. We had another team who made 16 blankets to share with patients at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte. And a third team worked at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore in Rock Hill to help paint and refurbish the building for a new season of ministry. Then on Sunday morning, Summersby Okey, the Director of Development and Advocacy at Habitat, came and shared worship with us. She shared about Habitat's origins as well as how their ministry has been transformed over the last several years to meet the changing needs of the community. The entire weekend was meaningful through our worship and service together. Thank you all who shared in another wonderful Go MAD Day.



## STEPHEN MINISTRY - "MY CARE GIVER WAS THERE JUST FOR ME!"

The care receiver of a Stephen Minister (at another church) wrote: "The time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. My Stephen Minister was there for me. Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life – something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God's presence, helping me know I was never alone."

Stephen Ministers help individuals in the congregation or community who are going through a crisis or life difficulty.

When you feel that you need a Stephen Minister or know someone who might, please contact one of our referral coordinators, Susan Mobley or Dave Johnson via email at [Stephenministryreferrals@unityfortmill.org](mailto:Stephenministryreferrals@unityfortmill.org) or call Rev. Molly Spangler at the church office - 803-547-5543.



## 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](mailto: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

## 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.

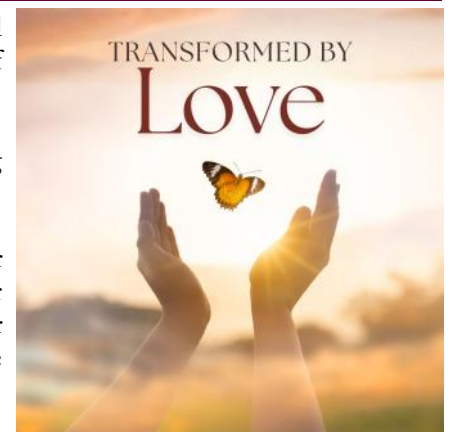
2) We currently have effective pledges that total just above **\$1,621,244**. Coupled with our projected starting cash funds, this level of projected giving puts us in a good position for funding next year's budget, of **\$1,826,192**, a 7.4% increase over our 2025 -2026 budget. Our ministry leaders 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**



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PO Box 1267  
Fort Mill, SC 29716-1267

[www.UnityFortMill.org](http://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*

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Thank you for supporting God's ministry through Unity Presbyterian Church.