

# Life at Unity

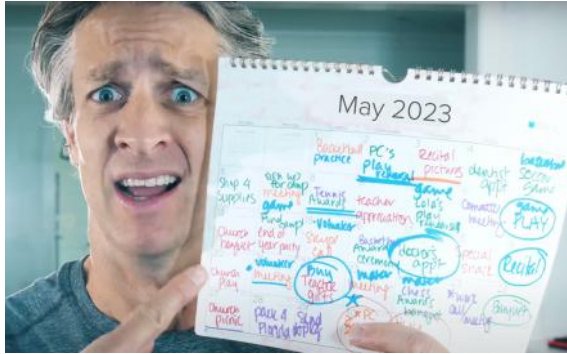
June 02, 2026



## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Have you heard the term “Maycember?” If not, check with any parent of a school age child or youth and you will hear stories of how, just like the month of December, the calendar in May is packed with activities, gatherings, and ceremonies. The only problem is that you miss all the fun parts of December like presents, cookies, or twinkling lights. Podcasters and overall creative internet folks Kim and Penn Holderness have written a number of parody songs about Maycember and you can find one of my favorites here:



[https://youtu.be/S8\\_IszUUAkw?si=dm0Mte6g6\\_189mF4](https://youtu.be/S8_IszUUAkw?si=dm0Mte6g6_189mF4).

There will always be seasons in life that are filled with more than we can fit into the boxes of our calendars. And the word we might share in moments like that is “hang in there.” Take a deep breath, for this too will pass.

For there will also be seasons in life that are filled with more silence and empty boxes on our calendar than we would like. And the word we might share in moments like that is “hang in there.” Take a deep breath, for this too will pass.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us “For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” (3:1)

I pray that these early days of June will be a change of pace for you, whatever that change might look like in your life. Perhaps it will be time to care for yourself. Maybe it will be time to try something new. Maybe it will be time to devote yourself to something that you love. But, may we all have a moment, in the words of author Frederick Buechner, to:

Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace. (*Now and Then* - 1983)

God bless,  
Matt

## 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!

*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 16th Newsletter is Wednesday, June 10th, 2026.

**Please welcome the following new members received by session on May 26th:**

Scott Bennett & Lisa Mathew

Joey & Allyson Calbreath, with their daughter Hannah

## 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.**

## LATE JUNE BIRTHDAYS

16 -- Clara Darnell; Heidi Hudson; Robert Jennings; Joan Martin; Terry Pait; Mac Young

17 -- Cooper Briggs; Dan Couchenour; Heidi Ernst; Julie Hooper; Avery Zambor

18 -- Norah Brindisi; Ellen Clarke; Willa Mabe

19 -- Connie Grantham; Eric Hunsberger

20 -- Xander Diorio; Matthew Pearson; Blake Renken; Miller Shouse; Kylie Spangler

21 -- Sandy Rea; Joan Reid

22 -- Lauren Clarke; Collin Olinger; Mary Fields Spratt; William Wilkins

23 -- Eloise Scott; Spratt White

24 -- Sue Carlton; Jackson Chamberlain; Scott Cost; Easley Griffin; Seth Hall; Charlotte Veltri

25 -- Ellen Carter; Kim Dellinger; Scott Kuebler; Graham Liebert; Elizabeth Mix; Brian Rayl; Brenda Young

26 -- Lillian Coker; John Matherly; Krista Renken

27 -- Pat Bartlett; Ann Wisz

28 -- Cody William Thomas

29 -- Henry Donato; John Dorosh; Bennett Fulton; Heather Lovette; Laurie Rogers; Hawke Woodward

30 -- Hannah Couchenour; Jace Griffin; Donna Maloney; Jackson Ringley; Alex Weller

## 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 ..."

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

June 14 - Leven 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 in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday through June 28th.** All ages are welcome, and nursery is provided for children age 3 and under.

### WHAT IS ALL-CHURCH FAITH FORMATION AND WHO IS IT FOR?

In order to give our hard-working volunteer Sunday morning Faith Formation teachers a break and because we believe that the church is a community of all-aged believers growing, learning, worshipping and serving together, we offer "All-Church Faith Formation" during June each year as well as on a few special Sundays during the year.

All-Church really means everyone: adults, youth and children of all ages together. Much of our life is segregated by age. Church is one of the rare places you can build relationships with and learn from people of all ages. Coming to All-Church Faith Formation offers you an opportunity to meet people you may not interact with otherwise at church. It also allows you the opportunity to learn from and be challenged by those of different generations.

All-Church Faith Formation is interactive and experiential, but not just for children. Adults learn in a variety of ways and can benefit from learning through active, artistic, or visual experiences. Come see what All-Church Faith Formation is all about. You'll be glad you did.



## PAM BRIGHT WILL RETIRE AT THE END OF AUGUST

For 17 years Pam Bright has served as Unity's Financial Manager. Her faithfulness, careful attention to detail, commitment to stewardship as an essential part of a life of Christian discipleship, and positive spirit have been such a gift to Unity's life and ministry through both good and challenging financial seasons. Now in a stage of life with the need for increased attention and focus on other things, Pam plans to retire from Unity at the end of August. We will absolutely miss her in the church office, but as a church member Pam looks forward to exploring other areas of ministry as she has a bit more time. Watch for opportunities to celebrate Pam's faith, gifts, and ministry as we get closer to her retirement.

The search for Unity's next Financial Manager has begun. If you know of potential candidates, if you would like to apply, or if you would like more information, please reach out to Dr. Matt or Chuck Welfare, chair of the Human Resources Ministry Team.

## 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 21st**. 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 a.m. for the early service, and 10:30 a.m. for the 11:00 a.m. service. No prior choral singing experience is necessary! Please contact Margaret Monroe, Director of Music at [mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org](mailto:mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org) with any questions.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR MUSIC CAMP!

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us for a joyful week of singing, music, games, creativity, and faith formation at Music Camp! 4K children who attend Cherub Choir in the fall may also register with Music Director's approval. Throughout the week, campers will learn music, build friendships, and grow in faith together. The week will conclude with a special presentation of a musical.

Dates: February 15th – 19th, 2027  
Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Registration opens October 1st, 2026. For more information, contact Margaret Monroe, Director of Music, at [mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org](mailto:mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org).



## UNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR KICKOFF PARTY



Unity Children's Choirs will have a Kickoff Party on **Sunday, August 2nd, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the choir room**. New and returning Cherub Choir and Covenant Choir members are invited to attend! We'll get to know each other, we'll have snacks, we'll play games, and we'll start learning a new anthem to sing together in worship at the end of August. We'll be done in time for the Ice Cream Social at 4:00 p.m.

On August 9th, we'll start our regular rehearsal schedule. Cherub Choir (children turning 4 by September 1, 2026 through first grade) will meet from 2:30-3:15 and the Covenant Choir (grades 2-5) meets from 3:30-4:15. Parents, please register for the new choir year on REALM at <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=OTZhYzc2ZTtZWWRINC00ZGVILTk0ODEtYjQ1MTAwZjNmY2Zl>. Once you register, a calendar for the entire school year will be emailed to you. Please contact Margaret Monroe at [mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org](mailto:mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org) or 803.547.5543 with any questions.

## HEALTH CORNER: SUMMER HEALTH TIPS

During these next few summer months, here are some things to think about putting **ON** or taking **OFF** to stay healthy & well:

- Put **ON** sunscreen before going out in the summer sun & re-apply it every couple of hours if sweating or swimming (don't forget your ears and scalp!)
- Check your body (or your kids' bodies) for ticks after being outside in the woods or weeds &, if found, pull them **OFF** with tweezers as close to the skin as possible at or near the tick's head using steady, upward pressure. Clean site afterwards with rubbing alcohol or soap & water. Report rashes or flu-like symptoms to your healthcare provider.
- Put **ON** your "lifeguard eyes" when supervising kids swimming; accidents in a pool or lake can happen in a skinny minute, even to good swimmers!
- Take some time **OFF** to spend outdoors with your family enjoying lazy summer rituals, like laying on your back looking at cloud formations or checking the backyard for fireflies in the evening.

Regardless of your political affiliation and because we are celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary, put **ON** some red, white & blue around July 4th and say a prayer of gratitude to God for our Founding Fathers, for their wisdom & foresight in creating this nation, for all the courageous men and women that have fought to keep this land free, for the freedom to worship God as we choose and that He guide all local, national and world leaders in the days and years ahead.

Have a beautiful, healthy, happy summer!

## 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).

## PENTECOST CELEBRATION

May 24th was Pentecost, the day in our church calendar where we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. We often remember it as the birthday of the Christian Church. Pentecost is one of the only days we use red paraments in the sanctuary, which signifies the tongues of fire seen on the heads of the people that day. At Unity's Pentecost celebration, we had cupcakes and sang Happy Birthday to the church. We made pinwheels to help us remember the rushing wind, used tangrams to tell the Pentecost story, added names to a candle of people we want to share this story with and colored Pentecost flames. If you missed this interactive celebration, here are a few pictures to see the fun we had.



## 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](mailto:renkenkrista@gmail.com))

## 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 largest graduating class of 28 children on May 20. These children will attend several different schools in Fort Mill, Indian Land, Charlotte, and Clover. 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 2026-27 school year begins. We have a few openings if you or someone you know is searching for a loving preschool experience in Fort Mill. Email Linda Bunge at [preschoolatunity@gmail.com](mailto:preschoolatunity@gmail.com) for registration information.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH LOCK-IN

22 middle school youth gathered for an overnight Lock-In on the last day of school for Fort Mill schools! We explored what it means to be the body of Christ together as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, participated in candlelight worship, made ice cream sundaes, and played tons of games!



## PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SUNDAY

**Sunday, June 7th**, is Peanut Butter & Jelly Sunday - Last month, we collected 289 lbs. of food and supplies for the Fort Mill Care Center, bringing our year-to-date total to 1,842 lbs. Current needs at the Care Center include pancake mix, baked beans, crackers, canned corned beef, canned salmon, BBQ sauce, mayonnaise, alfredo sauce, and women's Depends (M-XXL). **(NOTE: Any food, hygiene, or cleaning items are welcome, but they are currently overstocked on dry pasta and peanut butter.)** Please bring your donations and deposit them in the collection box in the Narthex any time you are at church. You can also drop off donations, including any refrigerated items, directly at the Fort Mill Care Center. The Care Center is open MWF 9:00 AM to noon and Wednesday from 5 to 7 PM. Please have them weigh the donation and please send an Email with the total weight to Larry Terrell at [larry.terrell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:larry.terrell@sbcglobal.net). Thank you again for generously sharing God's love with our neighbors in need.



## SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH THE FORT MILL CARE CENTER



The Fort Mill Care Center (FMCC) is one of Unity Presbyterian's major local mission partners. Unity was one of the founding churches of the Care Center, which opened in the mid 1980's to serve those in need in the Fort Mill community. Over the years, as Fort Mill has grown, so has the need. FMCC has grown to meet these challenges. When we think about the Care Center, most of us probably think about food distribution. In addition to this vital mission, FMCC also provides emergency financial assistance for utility bills, prescriptions, and dental work. Unity Presbyterian supports FMCC through our budget and special offerings and with donations of food, hygiene supplies, and cleaning materials. Most notably, we donate through our monthly Peanut Butter & Jelly Sunday, sponsored by Unity Men's Ministry, and the Sharing God's Bounty food drive in October, sponsored by the Outreach Ministry Team.

Here are a few highlights from FMCC for calendar year 2025:

- 3,531 Client visits (including 239 new clients)
- 2,253 Families (5,737 people) received 214,573 pounds of food
- \$127,114 Total paid for client utility bills
- \$59,259 Total paid client prescriptions and pharmacy vouchers
- \$6,892 Total paid for client emergency dental
- \$214,776 Total aid expenditures
- 11,096 Volunteer hours

In addition, the following items were made available through community donations:

- Birthday Bags – 107 bags containing cake mix, frosting, candles, etc.
- Senior Bags – 144 bags filled with useful items for senior citizens
- Holiday Bags – 75 bags/baskets with gifts and goodies for various holidays
- Lunch Kits – 130 bags with snacks and water bottles
- Children's Books – Over 1,000 books for children to take home
- Winter Essentials – Hundreds of blankets, scarves, hats, and socks
- Santa's Helper – 207 children from 88 families sponsored for Christmas

## CHANGE FOR THE CHURCH OFFERING COMING IN JULY

**Beginning Sunday, July 5th, and continuing throughout the month of July, we will collect our CHANGE FOR THE CHURCH OFFERING.**

During this time, we encourage everyone to collect their household change and donate to Unity for the following missions:

- One-half of the Change for the Church offering will be used to provide school supplies for children in need in the Fort Mill School District through the Foundation for Fort Mill Schools' *Classroom Ready* project.
- One-half of the offering will provide funds to the [Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network](#) to aid displaced and refugee children in Syria and Lebanon.



Details of how to give are listed below:

- Visit <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/-/form/give/now> to give online, select the "Change for Church" fund from the list of available funds.
- Buckets will be placed in the Narthex of the Sanctuary during the month of July for you to bring your loose change, folding money and checks for this annual Change for the Church offering.
- If you would prefer to mail a check, please make checks payable to Unity Presbyterian Church and write "Change for Church" in the memo line.
- You can also drop off your offering to the "Change for Church" fund by placing it in the black mailbox in front of the Historic Sanctuary (no glass containers please).

## 2026 SANCTUARY FLOWERS - SIGN UP TODAY



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

## STEPHEN MINISTRY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

"My Stephen Minister listens—really listens.

He doesn't judge me or tell me what to do, but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through."

- (From a Stephen Ministry Care Receiver in another state)

When you need a Stephen Minister, 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.

Our Stephen Ministers are here for you!



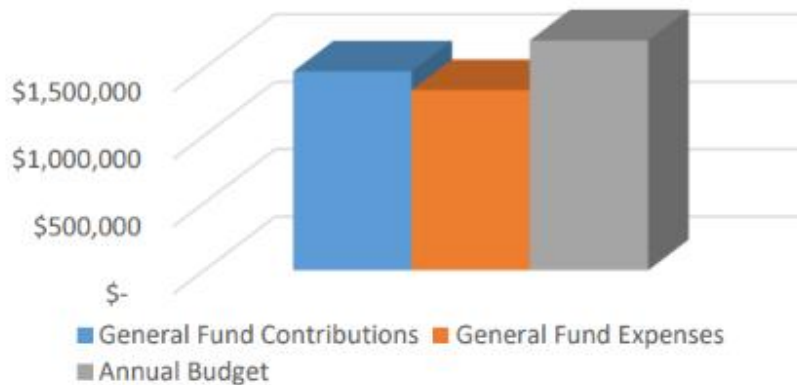
# UNITY ENDOWMENT PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR FUNDS



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.

## YEAR-TO-DATE 2025-2026 BUDGET UPDATE

### Year to Date Contributions & Expenses Compared with the Annual Budget



	April 2026	July 2025 through Apr 2026	% of Annual Budget	5-Year Average
General Fund Contributions	\$ 137,952	\$ 1,474,785	86.5%	\$1,291,619
General Fund Expenses	124,509	1,335,874	78.3%	1,227,724
Annual Budget		1,705,640	100.0%	1,569,561

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

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](https://www.instagram.com/UnityFortMill)

Facebook: [@UnityFortMill](https://www.facebook.com/UnityFortMill)

Be sure to “like” our page.

### 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)

Unity Presbyterian Church  
303 Tom Hall Street  
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.