

# Life at Unity

June 16, 2026



## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

While summer heat and humidity have arrived here in Fort Mill, as you read this newsletter article you might be surprised to discover that winter has returned - at least inside Unity Presbyterian Church - as our children, youth, and adults participate in the *Snowball Mountain Challenge: Vacation Bible School and Mission Camp 2026!* So, if you happen to stop by, keep an eye out for Christmas Trees, snowflakes, mountain cabins, and more!

With an opening and closing introduction to the day's theme, an energetic Activities Director and the loveable Ollie the Arctic Seal puppet are reporting on all the exciting winter sports events for the Challengers. Bible study and storytelling, frosty games, snowy surprises, engaging art, and tasty snacks all help our children learn about resilience and faith. They are exploring how the strength God provides enables them to share their gifts, be brave, give their all, pray, and hope. All this is centered on the theme verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13, NRSV).

That kind of trust and faith is not simply a message for our youngest children. It is the message that encourages our older elementary children to participate in Mission Camp as they serve each day with our community partners. It is the message that helps youth explore their own faith through mission and conferences like Montreat Youth Conference and Massannetta Springs Middle School Conference. It is the message that enables adults of all ages to find ways to share their gifts and to grow as disciples of Jesus. It is the message that underlies our efforts to love and welcome all, just as Jesus did.

I pray that together we might truly believe that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us and that together we might see God's kingdom of heaven sprout and grow in our midst.

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 July 7th Newsletter is Wednesday, July 1st, 2026.



### 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.**

## EARLY JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Janet Bassford
- 2 -- Jim Bickett; Judy Cowell; Justin Richardson
- 3 -- Gray Patterson; Dave Reimer; Thos Spratt
- 4 -- Nicole Creech; Ken Evans; Emily Newman; Jack Veltri
- 5 -- Missy Babinchak; Melissa Hall; Marianne Holiday; Christian Hollis; Garion Wascher
- 6 -- Scott Bagwell; Judi Griffin; Emma Lubanski; Jim Mathers; Liam McCabe; David Shamble; Lea Woodward
- 7 -- Hunter Smith
- 8 -- Oscar Beshers; Tom Cowell; Alex Macaulay; Elizabeth Macaulay; Will Macaulay; Jan Rogers
- 9 -- Bruce Edwards; Eve Hansen; Sandy Randall; Lyle Smith
- 10 -- Bobby Elisha; Scott Hermanns; Bobby Palmer; Betty Squatriglia; Craig Templeton; Patrick White
- 11 -- Robert Hudspeth; Sonya Schuermann
- 12 -- Mike Carwile; Ona Mabe; Nim Routh; A.J. Smith; Tim Whitesell
- 13 -- Megan Chmielinski; Collins Kim; Debbie Matthews; Ralph Merlo; Renee Stokes; Will Weaver
- 14 -- Allison Hudson; Stephanie Pecarro; Jennifer Sovo
- 15 -- Melissa Dowd; Terry Hudson; Anissa Lee; Zachary White; Sara Windham

## EMILY HERMANNS - COORDINATOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND ENGAGEMENT

We are excited and grateful to share that the Session has approved calling Emily Hermanns to serve as Unity's new Coordinator of Congregational Life and Engagement. Working with other staff members and Ministry Teams, Emily will help visitors find a church home at Unity and support fellowship and health ministries as we all seek to deepen relationships and connections with Christ and one another.

Emily and her husband Scott joined Unity in November 2018, and they are the parents of Hayden (age 4) and Lydia (14 months). Emily's professional background is as an Operating Room certified surgical technologist and Clinical Coordinator/Faculty Instructor at Central Piedmont Community College. She stepped away from these roles in May 2025 with the birth of their daughter and jumped into study and service here at Unity with attending Monday Musings and Sunday School, teaching a Faith Formation small group, serving on the Hospitality and Evangelism Ministry Team and the Health Ministry Team. Before she applied for the position, she had also signed up for the new Fellowship Ministry Team. Emily brings outstanding organizational skills, a deep faith, engaging personality, a willingness to ask good questions, and a vision for what God is doing at Unity Presbyterian Church that is contagious. We give thanks to God for Emily's gifts and this new opportunity to serve together.



## 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.

## FOLLOW ALONG WITH UNITY'S MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAMS



For the first time in recent memory, Unity is sponsoring two Men's Softball Teams this year in the Fort Mill Church Softball League. After an opening game against each other, each team now continues their schedule against the rest of the league.

Find the schedule here and pick a night to come cheer for the teams this summer:

<https://www.quickscores.com/Orgs/ResultsDisplay.php?OrgDir=fortmillsc&LeagueID=1686048>

## 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 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.



### HEALTH CORNER: COLON CANCER IS PREVENTABLE

Colon Cancer is a growth of cells that begins in a large intestine called the colon. Colon cancer typically affects older adults, though it can happen at any age. It usually begins as small clumps of cells called polyps that form inside the colon. Polyps generally aren't cancerous, but can turn into colon cancer over time. Colon cancer is the fourth most common cancer, however it can be prevented with a procedure called a colonoscopy. If polyps are found, they are removed the day of the colonoscopy. Patients of average risk (meaning no family history of colon cancer) should start having a screening colonoscopy at age 45. Patients that have a first degree relative with colon cancer should start screenings at age 40. The colonoscopy usually can be done in an outpatient endoscopy center in two hours. There is very little recovery time with patients resuming normal activities the next day. The best part of a colonoscopy is the 30 minute nap that patients receive during the colonoscopy. Don't delay. If you are 45 or older, get screened today.

For more information on "What's Happening" at Unity, please visit...  
[www.unityfortmill.org/whats-happening/](http://www.unityfortmill.org/whats-happening/)

## 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=OTZhYzc2ZTIhZWRIINC00ZGVILTk0ODEtYjQ1MTAwZjNmY2Zl>. 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.

## FAMILY CHOIR

While the Chancel Choir takes a break from Wednesday rehearsals in July, you are invited to join us for Family Choir! Family Choir is open to all children (who are readers), youth, and adults. Each Sunday in July, Family Choir will rehearse at 9:15 a.m. in the choir room to prepare music for our single 10:00 a.m. worship service. You don't even have to wear a robe! This is a great opportunity for singers who can't commit to participation in the choir throughout the year, as well as a chance for potential new choir members to try it out. Join us for all four Sundays in July, or as often as you're in town.

## UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY CHOIR



## 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, July 19th and goes through Sunday, July 26th**. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Dannie Vaughn at [vaughndl@comporium.net](mailto:vaughndl@comporium.net).

## UNITY YOUTH MID-WEEK MISSION

Unity Youth have been spending their Wednesday mornings serving with local mission partners this summer! We had a great time serving at Family Promise and the Life House Women's Shelter and learning more about how to put our faith into action through service and mission. Sign-up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D49AEAD28ABFD0-64051671-unity#/> to join us for more Mid-Week Mission opportunities in July!



## HIGH SCHOOL TOP GOLF NIGHT

## YOUTH SUNDAY BRUNCHES

**HIGH SCHOOL  
TOPGOLF  
NIGHT**  
THURSDAY, JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> @ 7PM  
All rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders - graduated seniors



Scan the QR code to register by June 22



  
**YOUTH  
sunday brunches**  
11:15 am - 12:15 pm  
historic sanctuary

<i>middle school</i>	<i>high school</i>
<b>JULY 5 &amp; 19</b>	<b>JULY 12 &amp; 26</b>
<i>rising 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders</i>	<i>rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders to graduated seniors</i>

## 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 - CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE

"Christ Caring for People through People". That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis.

What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through!

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.



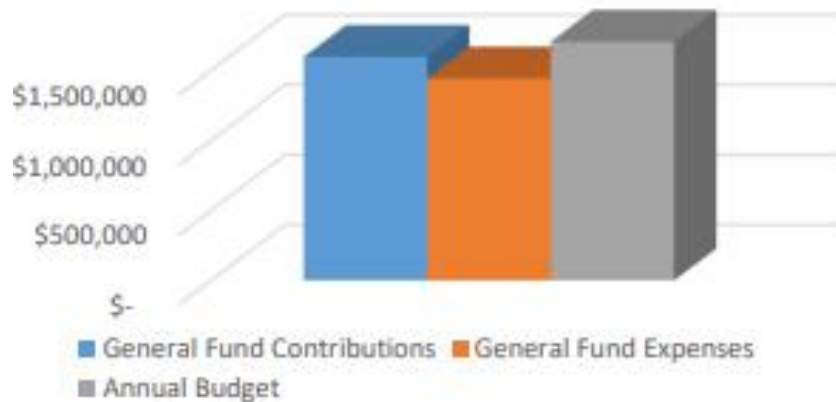
# UNITY ENDOWMENT PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR FUNDS



On May 11th, the Endowment Board authorized the distribution of up to \$30,000 for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year. If you 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



	May 2026	July 2025 through May 2026	% of Annual Budget	5-Year Average
General Fund Contributions	\$ 122,619	\$ 1,597,404	93.7%	\$ 1,389,306
General Fund Expenses	108,035	1,442,844	84.6%	1,340,175
Annual Budget		1,705,640	100.0%	1,569,561

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

### 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.