

Life at Unity

July 21, 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Over the last year we have followed an Annual Vision for Ministry, “We love because God first loved us.” It has centered us on God’s amazing love for us in Jesus Christ and invited us to respond by loving God with all that we are, embodying love as hospitality, sharing love as faithful stewardship, and expanding love through partnership. As our year with this vision comes to an end this month, I hope that you have found yourself loved, challenged, stretched, and encouraged through our ministry together.

A question that has come up from time to time over the course of this year, especially in light of the significant challenges facing our world, has been “Where do I start?” It can feel as if the efforts of one person, one church, one community cannot possibly make a difference, leading us to despair and inaction.

So, to conclude this annual vision, I’d like to share with you a quote I recently came across in a sermon by theologian William Placher: “The way we best show our love to the whole world is... to love with a particular passion some little part of it.”

My beloved friends, we love because God first loved us.
Will Unity Presbyterian Church be known today in Fort Mill for love?
Where will your love make a difference in one life, in one place, in one ministry today?
What little part of God’s world will you love with a particular passion?

It is a gift to love with all of you.

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 August 4th, 2026 Newsletter is Wednesday, July 29th, 2026.

TAKE NOTICE!

The office will be closed on **Wednesday the 29th** for technology and flooring upgrades.

We are scheduled for Fiber network installation along with new carpet in the sanctuary hallway.

STEWARDSHIP IS EVERYTHING

Stewardship is the responsible management of all God-given resources—time, talents, money, and creation—based on the truth that God owns everything and humans are managers (stewards) accountable to Him. Over the next several months the Stewardship Committee will share questions to consider corporately as a church as well as individually and maybe spark some conversation with one another.

The Divine

1. Do we acknowledge that God owns everything?
2. How do we manage our God-given resources in a way that reflects our love for Him?

UNITY’S OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM INVITES YOU TO A SUNDAY WITH CINDY CORELL!

On **Sunday, July 26th**, Cindy Corell is coming to visit us here at Unity. Cindy is one of the PC (USA)’s Global Ecumenical Liaisons, and a long-time friend and mission partner of Unity’s. Before becoming a Global Ecumenical Liaison, Cindy was a mission co-worker in Haiti. Cindy is going to preach in worship and then share in a time of conversation following worship with us in the Fellowship Hall. Cindy will talk about her new role, as well as the what the new structure of mission looks like for our denomination. Our Outreach Team hopes to see you all on July 26th as we welcome Cindy and hear more about the mission work of the PC(USA).

PC(USA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY REFLECTION - JULY 26TH AT 11:15 AM

The Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly met in a combination of Zoom committee meetings and in-person plenary sessions in Milwaukee from June 22nd - July 2nd. Topics have included World Missions, internal denominational reorganization, health care coverage and options for pastors and church staff, policy statements on key issues of the day, and more. One of the Young Adult Advisory Delegates to the meeting was Unity’s Bekah Rich. **On Sunday, July 26th, at 11:15 a.m.**, as part of the conversation with missionary Cindy Corell about changes in the PCUSA’s organization of world missions, Dr. Matt will share a few other updates and answer questions about this year’s Assembly.

EARLY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 -- Ashley Babinchak; Jamie White

2 -- Pat Eisenberg; Christine Lake; Cameron McDonald; Noah Padgett

3 -- Brandon Carter; Kate Fulmer

4 -- Susan Dezzani; Ford Hunsberger; Craig Marshall; Rob Reid; Angela Sheets; Ann Spitzer

5 Harry Brooks; Robin Carwile; Theodore Ernst; Toni Faulkenberry; Rick Fulton; Kristin Lynch; Charlotte Newberry; Eli Windham

6 -- Nancy Barbieri; Ellen Bickett; Jeff Channell; Nancy Hudspeth; Katharyne Tedford; Beverly Tysinger; Joyce White; Sandra White; CeCe Woodward

7 -- Thomas Monroe

8 -- Brock Fantone; Darold Hoops; Collin McCann

9 -- Ronnie Glenn; Clay Pecarro

10 -- Jonathan Bickett; Carter Crain; Cara Estes; Nick Mari; Gavin Witherspoon

11 -- Will Gaither; Tara Mummy

12 -- Tyler Hines; Stewart Nix; John Oakes

13 -- Melissa Barhorst; Debby Bauserman; Blake Briggs; Stephanie Devaney; Chris Diorio; Mary Margaret Donato; Jay Fulmer; Drake Joyce; Thornton Thomas; Stephanie Trueb

14 -- Elizabeth Shamble

15 -- Paige Hunt; Ellie Stempler; Mary Martin Windell

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 do it one more time on Sunday, July 26th as part of Change for the Church. Join us for casual dress, the Change for the Church Special offering, Children in Worship and Nursery, and Family Choir. Come early because it means the sanctuary will be full!

JOIN US FOR STORIES FROM SCOTLAND



Everyone is invited on **Sunday, August 2nd, in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.** to come hear stories of where our Scotland Pilgrimage participants experienced God during our trip this past spring.

SAVE THE DATE FOR UNITY'S ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Join us for Unity's Annual Ice Cream Social on **Sunday, August 2nd, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!** Enjoy a cool treat and an afternoon of fun and fellowship with friends and family. This exciting event is for all ages and is one you won't want to miss.

"Churners" may bring homemade ice cream prepared in advance or churn your ice cream on-site. If you are interested in being a "churner" for this event, please contact Vickey Fulton at fultonvc@gmail.com or Jean Thies at jthies@comporium.net.



Need a churn? Fully automatic ice cream makers are available to sign out from the Unity Kitchen and can make delicious frozen desserts in under 30 minutes.

Be sure to participate in our popular Flamingo Counting Contest! Test your skills by counting the flamingos hidden throughout the event. The person with the closest count will be named this year's winner and receive an Ice Cream Scoop! Congratulations to Nim Routh, our 2025 Ice Cream Scoop Winner, who claimed the title at last year's Ice Cream Social!

We look forward to seeing you on August 2nd. Come join the fun—you'll stay cool for sure!

DANCE FITNESS RESUMES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH!



After a short summer break, the Wednesday dance fitness classes will resume on **Wednesday, August 5th. Rhythm-n-Moves begins at 9:30 a.m.** This includes a fun warmup, stretching and moves from the practice of NIA. We end with beginner line dances. **Line Dance starts at 10:30 a.m.** A wide variety of music is used, and the class is designed for those with some experience. Both classes take place in the Historic Sanctuary. This is an excellent time to try out a class as we begin a new season! All are welcome.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION - AUGUST 9TH AT 10 AM

The Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting for **Sunday, August 9th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.** The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to hear a "snapshot" report on Unity's 2025-26 program and fiscal year, to celebrate the wonderful ministry of God in our midst, to approve the pastors' terms of call for the 2026-27 fiscal year, to hold the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, and to consider and to elect those nominated by the Nominating Committee for Ruling Elders and Deacons. When available, bios for those who will be nominated can be found at <https://unityfortmill.org/connect/congregational-meeting/>. Childcare will be available for children aged 5 and under. Be sure to join us for this important moment in Unity's life together!

CHANGE FOR THE CHURCH OFFERING

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).

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.

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>



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Have you experienced a significant loss? Are you struggling to process and reflect about that loss without getting overwhelmed? If so, you are invited to participate in a grief support group here at Unity this fall. This group will meet weekly for six weeks beginning in October and into November. Meeting times and dates will be confirmed closer to the fall. Rev. Jeannie Bickett, Susan Mobley, and Rev. Molly Spangler will lead the group in conversation each week. There will be space to share, reflect, and pray together as we support one another along this grieving journey. If you plan to participate, please register by contacting Rev. Jeannie Bickett at pjbickett@unityfortmill.org. We hope to see you there.

HEALTH CORNER: WHAT IS HEAT EXHAUSTION?

With the recent rise in extreme temperatures, the risk of heat related illnesses has increased. Heat exhaustion can happen when your body becomes dehydrated and loses too much water and salt due to high temperatures and humidity. People most at risk are older adults, those with high blood pressure and those who are working outside. Signs and symptoms include cool moist skin with goose bumps when in the heat, heavy sweating, faintness, dizziness, fatigue, weak rapid pulse, low blood pressure when standing, muscle cramps, nausea and headache.

Left untreated, heat exhaustion can progress to a more severe heat-related illness called heatstroke when body temperature can rise to 104 degrees or higher. Heat-related illnesses are largely preventable. If you begin to experience any symptoms, stop exercising immediately and get out of the heat. It is imperative to lower your body temperature and hydrate right away. You may place cool, wet towels or ice packs on your neck, forehead and under your arms; spray yourself with water from a hose or shower; or sit in a tub filled with cold water. Drink fluids, such as water or a sports drink. If you don't feel better within about 20 minutes, seek emergency medical care.

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

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR CPR!



Unity's fall class is scheduled for **Saturday, October 24th**. Class will meet in the Fellowship Hall. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. and be done by noon. Topics covered will be basic Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, use of the AEDs and choking first aid. The last topic is important for all ages, but especially critical for those around children. The American Heart Association instructors are from Innovative Solutions, an emergency training center located in Charlotte. The class uses video instruction, teacher-led discussion and hands-on practice. Cost is \$50.00 in cash, payable at the door. **Register by calling the church office at 803.547.5543, or contacting Susan Benfield: 803.984.6100 or sbenfield@comporium.net**

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 R E A L M at <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=OTZhYzc2ZTItZWRIW00ZGVILTk0ODEtYjQ1MTAwZjNmY2Zl>. Once you register, a calendar for the entire school year will be emailed to you. Please contact Margaret Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org or 803.547.5543 with any questions.

CHANCEL CHOIR



The Chancel Choir will **resume rehearsals on Wednesday, August 5th**. We will be working on anthems for upcoming worship services, as well as beginning work for Advent and Christmas. If you've ever thought about joining the choir, now would be the perfect time! We rehearse Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the choir room. All adults and youth are welcome. Contact Margaret Monroe, Director of Music, with any questions at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org.

SUMMER HANDBELLS

During the month of August, make plans to join us for Summer Handbells. This group is for total beginners and experienced ringers alike. It's the perfect opportunity to try something new! Youth and adults are invited, and basic note reading and ringing techniques will be emphasized. We will rehearse for three Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. (August 5th, August 12th, and August 19th), and then we will play in worship at both services on August 23rd. **Register on Realm:**

<https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YzkwNzI0NzQtNWVmZC00ZWZjLWlyOTktYjQ1MTAwZWRIW00ZGVILTk0ODEtYjQ1MTAwZjNmY2Zl>.

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.



PASSPORTKIDS! CAMP GOT US READY TO RUN THE RACE OF FAITH

Eighteen 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders and their adult chaperones recently attended PASSPORTkids! Camp at Montreat. The Theme was Get Ready, Get Set, Go! Worship each day challenged us to consider how we discern the gifts God has given each of us to share with the world, what things we do to have a firm foundation in our faith, when we are called to step out in faith and seek justice in the world, and when we need rest to keep our minds and bodies healthy so we can go out and run the race of faith once more. Through games, activities, worship and a mission focus on a ministry in Mexico City that helps families to educate their children, we grew in faith, made new friends and even found time to help ice cream with Unity's college students working at Montreat this summer. Thank you to our amazing volunteer chaperones, Jen Coker, Sarah Hopfer, and Chris Spinner. We couldn't have taken this trip without you.



IT'S ALMOST BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIME!

Join us for a Blessing of the Backpacks during the children's time at both services on **Sunday, August 2nd**. Bring your backpack or briefcase and come celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

UNITY YOUTH MID-WEEK MISSION AT UNITY PRESCHOOL!

Middle and high school youth had a great morning serving at the Unity Preschool! We helped them get ready to welcome children back soon by cleaning and organizing toys, setting up the playground, and using our artistic gifts to paint rocks to look like food that children will use for outdoor play. Thank you to Linda Bunge for the opportunity to serve and to the youth for their dedication to our young friends at the preschool. There are more chances to serve this summer during Mid-Week Mission, so contact Liz to sign-up!



MASSANETTA MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE 2026

15 Unity middle schoolers attended Massanetta Middle School Conference and spent an awesome week deepening our relationships with God and one another. The 2026 theme was "Peace-ing Together, Piece by Peace" and we explored what it means to find and share the peace of Christ with every person we encounter. We had a great time at encounter groups with middle schoolers from all over the country, and had lots of fun dancing energizers and sliding down the slip n' slide! Thank you to all the adult leaders and families who made this experience possible for our middle schoolers! We can't wait to return next year!



LIVE NATIVITY REGISTRATION—REGISTER BY AUGUST 2ND!

Unity is planning our first Live Nativity for this Advent Season! This will be a live action retelling of the story of Christ's arrival on Christmas. This event will take place on Friday, December 18th with two back-to-back shows, one at 5:30 p.m. and the second at 7:00 p.m. It will take place outside, in front of the Historic Sanctuary. At this time, we are inviting adults and youth ages 6th grade and up to participate in all roles. All acting roles will be silent. We will pre-record the narration and actors will be acting out scenes to the recording. Therefore, you have no lines to memorize, even the narrators can read right off the page when we record. We need to know now, in July, if you can participate as an actor or a reader so we can plan costumes and rehearsals. If you are interested in participating, please **register on REALM: <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NzRmY2RlNjQtZGFmYi00MzJlLWFlOWItYjQ3ODAxMmRlZmI5>**, or reach out to Pastor Molly at mbspangler@unityfortmill.org. Please **sign up by Sunday, , August 2nd.**



YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE YOUR CRISIS ALONE



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

One of Unity Presbyterian Church's trained, caring Stephen Ministers will listen and walk alongside you as you deal with life's challenges.

Contact one of our Stephen Leaders to see whether Stephen Ministry is the answer for you.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry, 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 at 803.547.5543.

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.

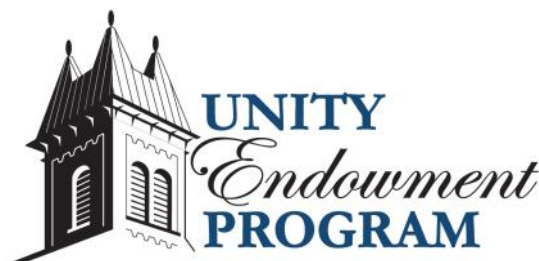
Dates for 2026 are available on Sign-Up Genius for reserving a Sunday to place flowers in the sanctuary. You may visit <https://bit.ly/2026-Flower-Calendar> and complete the steps for selecting your choice of Sunday(s). All instructions are included. If you have questions, please contact Michaela Braswell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



	June 2026	July 2025 through June 2026	% of Annual Budget	5-Year Average
General Fund Contributions	\$ 100,212	\$ 1,697,616	99.5%	\$1,486,300
General Fund Expenses	177,714	1,620,558	95.0%	1,469,002
Annual Budget		1,705,640	100.0%	1,569,561

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

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
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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.