

Life at Unity

August 04, 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

In his collection of prayers, John Rogers, former pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, offered a prayer he titled “On Holding Things Together.” As we begin this new church year together, I invite you to join me in praying this selection from Dr. Rogers’ prayer:

Gracious God, we give thanks ... and we pray for those women and men who, in your providence, have been given the ability to unify, to reconcile, and to hold together people and enterprises and efforts to high purpose ... those who bring a welcome perspective, competence, grace, and stability to all their endeavors:

public servants, who hold together opposing political agendas and so make government work for the common good;

business and community leaders who are people of vision, and who give of themselves and of the human and material resources of their companies to those things that encourage community, that uphold human life, that lift hearts and hopes, and hold together the life of the city;

artists who bring together shape and form and color ... musicians who harmonize ideas and melodies and voices ... poets and writers who weave words with clarity and emotion - all of whom feed our souls and lift our spirits;

teachers in school and church, interpreters of ideas who help us hold onto and hold together the best of human thought and discovery;

diplomats and negotiators who hold together international relationships, friendships, agreements, treaties, cease-fires in the service of good will and reconciliation;

military personnel and law enforcement officers who place themselves in danger in order to hold together the defense of our nation and our security at home;

physicians who hold together the working of body and mind in health and wholeness;

those who work unseen and often unappreciated behind the scenes to hold together all manner of enterprises without whom institutions, organizations, industries could hardly function, if at all.

And now, O God, hold us together we pray as we seek to be your people in this place, that the ministry of this church might be a ministry of holding together people whose lives are tossed and torn by illness and grief, by hunger and poverty, by violence and enmity, by the struggle to provide for their families against forces that would seem to any of us overwhelming. ... All these prayers we offer in the name of him in whom all things are reconciled and held together, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

John B. Rogers, Jr. With All Our Prayers, p104-106.

See you Sunday!
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 18, 2026 Newsletter is Tuesday, August 11, 2026. **Please note:** Deadlines have now bumped up a day to the Tuesday before the posting date.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members received by session on July 27, 2026:

Matt & Megan Dosch, with their daughter Finley

Sharon Ryals

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.

Environment

Are we responsible caretakers of the environment?

For more information on “What’s Happening” at Unity, please visit...

www.unityfortmill.org/whats-happening/

LATE AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

16 -- Sarah Cate Reynolds; Katy Scott; Sutton Spratt

17 -- Pam Bright; Janet Cappers; Drew Clarke; Logan Matinata; Lewis Norman; David Rozelle; Sean Shamble; Joyce Strout; Ansley Turner

18 -- Harper Ennis; Charlie Lake; Kara Miller; Bob Schaefer; Greg Smith; Tatum True

19 -- Kim Fish; Kaitlyn Hall; May Hulbert; Ava Mikulsky; Dan Mummey; Bruce Windham; Steele Loren Woodward

20 -- Kristy Chmielinski; Sinclair Creech; Charlene Greyard; Amy Helms; Wayne Meyer; Allyson Spratt

21 -- Stephanie Hansen; Avery Hennessy; Mia Smith; Janet Todd

22 -- Alexandra Cardozo; Micah Davis; Clark Hopfer; Taylor Stemen; Hannah Tuma; John Young

23 -- Anna Hines; Wade Scott; Rusty Todd

24 -- Lexi Bates; Dehler Hart; Ansley McDonald; Kelly Reilly; Ken Tysinger

25 -- Zoey Hines; Peter Mummey; Casey Wall

26 -- Strat Lake; Ellen Liebert; Quinn Miller; Mary Shouse

27 -- Matthew Bowman; Billy Bradford; Alexandra Evans; Mason Friedman; Layla Hollingsworth; Suzanne Kuebler; Cora Wall

28 -- Matt Shaffer; Jennifer Thomas; Megan Watson

29 -- Addie-Belle Kimbrell; Don Reichenbach; Carrie Stocker; Trey Swainey

30 -- Forrest Rozelle; Jean Thies

31 -- Logan Bennett; Lynn Ringley; Diane Yarbrough

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AUGUST 9 AT 10:00 A.M.

The Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting for **Sunday, August 9, 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 amazing 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. The Nominating Committee will nominate:

- Ruling Elders - Class of 2029: Lori Glasco, Kathryn Glenn, Jim Lester, Andreas Schuhmacher, Ken Tysinger, and Carolyn Wright
- Youth Ruling Elder - Class of 2027: Virginia Sizemore
- Deacons - Class of 2029: Teri Couchenour, Greg Dasher, Gwen Garvey, Kenney Hentschke, Michelle Hoffman, Jake Kimbrell, Heather Lovette, Eric Threatt, and Chelsea Whitten
- Youth Deacon - Class of 2027 - Davis Glasco
- Deacons to fill an unexpired term in the Class of 2027 - Bob Schaefer

When available, bios for those who will be nominated can be found at <https://unityformill.org/connect/congregational-meeting/>. Childcare will be available for children ages 5 and under. Be sure to come for this important moment in Unity’s life together!

WELCOME DEBBIE EGGLESTON, FINANCIAL MANAGER

We are delighted to welcome Debbie Eggleston as Unity’s new financial manager. She has served since 2018 as Business Manager & Treasurer at Central United Methodist Church in Monroe, NC and prior to that as Financial Assistant at Indian Trail Presbyterian Church in Indian Trail, NC and in several for-profit accounting roles. After reviewing more than 60 applications, Debbie was the unanimous first choice of the search team and unanimously approved by the Session. **Her first day at Unity will be Monday, August 10**, and she’ll have several weeks to work alongside Pam Bright before her retirement to ensure a smooth transition. As you are by the church office, please share a warm welcome to Debbie and reach out with any questions.



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 as Pam plans to retire, we hope that you will join us in celebrating her faithfulness and ministry at Unity. **We will recognize Pam as a part of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, August 9, at 10:00 a.m.**, so be sure to join us for that time of celebration.

In addition, if you’d like to send a note or card of appreciation, please send those to the church office (303 Tom Hall Street) and we’ll present them to Pam on her final day. Most of all our prayers surround Pam and her husband Peter for the days and new opportunities that are to come.

WE’RE HIRING - PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST

Unity Presbyterian Church is seeking a Receptionist for the church office. This part-time, 18 hour-a-week, Monday through Thursday position ensures that church members, friends, and visitors are welcomed and promptly cared for through telephone, email, door access, and in-person interaction. In addition, this position assists with a variety of administrative projects and manages the church office work areas, equipment, supplies, and storage. If you would like to apply or if you know anyone who might be interested, please reach out to Dr. Matt Rich for more information or visit: <https://unityformill.org/about-us/careers/>.

THANK YOU TO STEPHANIE GIRARDOT



Stephanie Girardot joined the Unity Presbyterian Church Ministry Team as Receptionist in September 2022. What a gift she has been as she's greeted members and visitors to the church office, answered the phones, kept the church office well supplied, and aided those in need of assistance. In many ways, Stephanie has been the first voice or first face someone new has met on a visit to Unity during the week. We are grateful!

Stephanie's family obligations have shifted so that she is no longer able to serve with us during the week. **Her final day in the church office will be August 27.** Thank you, Stephanie, for the gift you are and all that you have brought to Unity Presbyterian Church over the last four years.

ANNUAL VISION OF MINISTRY FOR 2026-2027

Each year, the Session takes time to carefully and prayerfully discern a "north-star" vision for the upcoming program year. This vision builds on Unity's consistent mission statement and seeks to help church officers, ministry teams, and staff draw together in a common direction while still allowing and encouraging creativity and individuality among our various ministries. With that in mind and seeking to capture the essence of faith and life together at Unity, the Session has approved as the Annual Vision of Ministry for the 2026-2027 church and program year:

A Place at the Table - *Luke 24:30-31*

As God invites all to new life through Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection, Unity Presbyterian Church seeks to respond by being and becoming a community that:

- Welcomes and creates belonging for everyone as beloved children of God (*Luke 14:20b-23* and *Hebrews 13:2*)
- Gathers to encounter Christ and grow in faith through word, sacrament, formation, and fellowship (*Luke 13:29-30* and *Hebrews 10:24-25*)
- Witnesses and engages with one another and the world through dialogue, discernment, shalom, and justice (*Isaiah 1:17*, *Matthew 14:16*, and *Luke 4:16-21*)
- Celebrates the goodness of the Lord with generosity and joy (*Psalms 34:8*, *Isaiah 25:9*, and *Luke 24:52-53*)

We will share more during a five-week preaching series throughout August about this vision, but we encourage you to begin thinking and praying about how you will live into this vision in the year ahead. What does it mean to belong? Where do you find your place here at Unity Presbyterian Church? Who can you invite to join you? There is a place for each of us and we are excited to see how God will enable us to live and serve together.

DANCE FITNESS RESUMES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5!

After a short summer break, the Wednesday dance fitness classes will resume on **Wednesday, August 5. 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.



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: Are You Connected?

When you wake up, do you look forward to your day? Our relationships with God and with each other make us who we are and guide our decisions. As we gear up for another busy program year at Unity, we are invited to come to the table just as we are... broken, in need of God's love, and in need of socializing with each other. God already took the first step. Does your response include spending time with him?

Does it include a visit, card, phone call, or email to someone? Sometimes, our social health needs to be intentional. In Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, we read "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." Reach out, connect, and reap the many benefits!



MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

All men are invited to join the Men's Ministry for breakfast on **Tuesday, August 11, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Coffee is always ready by 7:30 a.m. if you want a headstart on the fellowship! This month's devotion leader is Dave Johnson. Among our "Opportunities to Serve" this month, we will begin planning the November Veteran's Day Appreciation Breakfast. Please plan to attend if you would like to be part of this important event.

SAVE THE DATE FOR CPR!

Unity's fall class is scheduled for **Saturday, October 24**. 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**



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, August 11**, as we will be hosting a blood drive in the **Fellowship Hall from 2:30 to 7:00 p.m.** To make an appointment or for more information, please call 1.800.REDCROSS or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor code "Unity". Celebrate more life! Give Blood.

UNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

We had a blast at our Choir Kickoff Party! We got to know each other, sang, danced, ate snacks, and made paper pinwheels to use for a breathing tool. **It's not too late to join us this Sunday, August 9, as we start our regular schedule.** Cherub Choir (children turning 4 by September 1, 2026 through first grade) will meet from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. and the Covenant Choir (grades 2-5) meets from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Parents, **please register for the new choir year on Realm at <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=OTZhYzc2ZTIhZWVRINC00ZGVILTk0ODEtYjQ1MTAwZjNmY2Zl>**. Please contact Margaret Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org with any questions.



CHANCEL CHOIR



The Chancel Choir will **resume rehearsals on Wednesday, August 5, at 6:30 p.m.** 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 to 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

Summer Handbells begins tomorrow, but there's still a place for you! We will rehearse for three Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. (August 5, August 12, and August 19), and then we will play in worship at both services on August 23. Youth and adults of all ability levels are welcome. Contact Margaret Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org to save your spot.



GRANDS CAMP 2026

Last week, we hosted 27 grandchildren and 32 grandparents for our seventh year of Grands Camp. Our theme was "A Place at the Table" and introduced Unity's new Annual Vision of Ministry to our grandfamilies. We heard stories from the Gospel of Luke of Jesus's call to hospitality and welcome for all. Each morning, we opened in an interactive worship service, then we played games, read books, created art, ate snacks and made LEGO creations to go along with each Bible story. It was a grand time! We hope you'll consider joining us next summer.



KINDERGARTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST

All families with children beginning kindergarten this year are invited to a Kindergarten Bible Breakfast on **Sunday, August 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Room M203**. We'll have doughnuts, juice and coffee and will present your child with his or her very own Story Bible. We'll share with your children the types of exciting stories they can find there and invite them to explore the stories with you at home. We will bless our Bibles and the children who read them. **Please RSVP by emailing Kathryn McGregor at KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org by August 10.**

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

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August 23rd from 4:15-6:15 p.m.



For all children in 2nd grade or older with a parent

Families will move from station to station to learn more about baptism and communion, our order of worship, and explore parts of the sanctuary.



[RSVP Here](#)

THIRD GRADE BIBLES & LEARNING TO USE MY BIBLE



 **Third Grade Bible Presentation & Learning to Use My Bible** 
Sunday, August 16th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. 
[RSVP Here](#)

CUB SCOUT PACK 108 IS RECRUITING!

Cub Scout Pack 108, chartered by Unity Presbyterian Church, is welcoming boys and girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Join us for fun, adventure, service, and outdoor activities in a family-centered program. For more information or to visit a Pack meeting, please visit www.pack108.com or contact Drew Clarke at fortmillpack108cubmaster@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE FOR UNITY YOUTH KICKOFF!

THE BANQUET

A PLACE FOR YOU AT THE TABLE

Unity Youth Kick-Off 2026

Sunday, August 16

4:30pm

Fellowship Hall

All youth & parents invited!



All 6th-12th grade youth and their parents are invited to join us on **Sunday, August 16, at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall** as we kickoff a new year of youth ministry together! Join for games, a chance to reconnect with our faith family, and to stories of the work God is doing in the lives of our young people!

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF LIZ CORSIG



THE PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY AND
UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JOYFULLY INVITE YOU TO THE SERVICE OF
ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION FOR

*Elizabeth
Corsig*

AS MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH
AT FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FORT MILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

reception to follow

All are invited to join us for the service of ordination and installation for Liz Corsig as Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults on **Sunday, August 30, at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**. There will be a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for this day of great joy and celebration for the Church!

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



WHAT TO SAY, OR NOT SAY, TO SOMEONE WHO IS GRIEVING



1. Simply express your sorrow, then follow the grieving person's lead.
2. Focus on the other person. The conversation should be strictly about the one who is suffering. Forget about yourself. You may be shifting the focus to yourself if you start a sentence with: "Well, I...", "When I...", "I remember...", "My...".
3. Platitudes and cliches hurt and do not heal. Examples not to say are: "I know how you feel...", "It's for the best...", "Keep a stiff upper lip...", "At least...", "God doesn't give you any more than you can handle...", "It's God's will..."

We are not perfect and may make mistakes but most importantly be sincere and let God's love shine through you.

(From the book *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart* by Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk, founder of Stephen Ministries, pastor and clinical psychologist.)

If 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 or call Pastor Molly Spangler at 803.547.5543.

UNITY ENDOWMENT PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

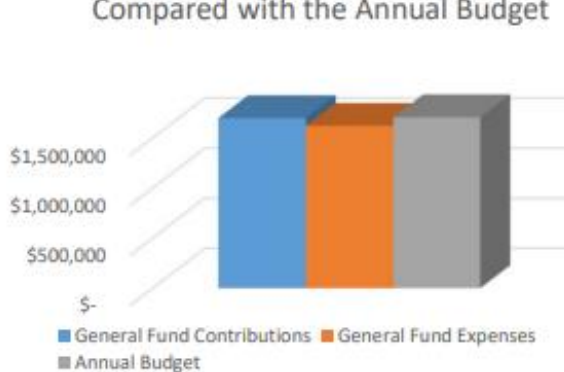


On May 11, the Endowment Board authorized the distribution of up to \$30,000 for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year. If you would like to fund a program or activity not funded by the budget, please submit the [attached application](#) to Pam Bright, Financial Manager **by TODAY, August 4**. Applications can 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 13. The Board will accept distribution requests after August 4, but additional funds may not be available until after June 30, 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
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.