Life at Unity

September 16, 2026

UNITY
Presbyterian Church (USA)

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

The summer after we were married, Sarah and I spent time in Cambridge, England, while she participated in a law study abroad program and I worked out an independent study about worship in local Reformed churches. One church I visited was composed of many people from various denominations. As such they brought many different memories and traditions to their worship life, especially to the church's practice of communion. Often on Sundays when communion was served, the minister would encourage those who gathered for worship to choose their seat carefully. Those seated in one section would be served communion in the pews. Those sitting in another section would be invited to come forward and receive communion by intinction. If someone sat in a third section, they would pass a common loaf and cup around to serve each other. And then a final section was available for those who would not receive the sacrament at all. I guess they could eat their own snack from home if they wanted, but no bread or juice would be served in that section.

Can you imagine a communion celebration that is much more like a "choose your own adventure" instead of a common meal? Something about that just feels wrong. I know the church was trying to be respectful of a variety of wishes and traditions, but they seem to have forgotten Paul's words to the Corinthians: "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Cor. 10:17). A sacramental meal intended to symbolize the unity of the church became an illustration of division.

I remembered that experience when the Worship and Music Team began considering how we offer gluten free bread on the Sundays we celebrate communion by intinction. The question emerged as I became aware, through my own extended family, of how important it is to ensure that even the chalice that one dips bread into remains gluten free for those with celiac disease. The Worship and Music Team embraced this discussion as a part of the team's "A Place at the Table" goal to review Unity's current communion traditions to ensure they remain meaningful, accessible, and spiritually enriching for both long-time members and first-time guests.

As we considered a variety of options for ensuring everyone could find their place at the table, we agreed that using gluten free bread at all of the communion stations when we celebrate by intinction is a simpler and more meaningful way for us to all participate in communion together and be served in the same way as opposed to creating a single station where someone who cannot eat gluten would be singled out. The additional cost to use gluten free bread at all of the communion stations is minimal. We tried this method at Liz Corsig's ordination and installation service, and it was well received.

So, beginning with World Communion Sunday on October 4, we will use gluten free bread at all of the communion stations on Sundays when we celebrate by intinction. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. We hope this act of hospitality and care will ensure that all are able to find their place at the Lord's Table as we celebrate together a joyful feast.

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 October 6, 2026 Newsletter is Tuesday, September 29, 2026. **Please note:** Deadlines have now bumped up a day to the Tuesday before the posting date.

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.

Calendars
How does our church calendar glorify and reflect our call from God?

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

EARLY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 -- Allison Bickett; Parkes Dowling; Jean McManus; Cathy Nunnery; Tyson Shouse; Addie Swainey

2 -- Erika Friedman; Roman Litrenta

3 -- Jim Babinchak; Jeannie Bickett; Charley Faulkenberry; Luke Hansen; Wyndie Havnaer; Liz Vierstra; Travis Williams

4 -- Dan Mace; Deborah Mowen

5 -- James Bunge; Megan Dosch; John Hoffman; William Hunsberger; Zoe Hunsberger; Allison Ross; Ken Wisz

6 -- Harrison Bolettieri; Betsy Gload; Mike Hughes; Makenzie McCormack; Audrey Renken

7 -- Laura F. Hall; Sofie Hall; Rick Meacham; Chloe Templeton; Andrew Thomas

8 -- Scott Frattaroli; Laura A. Hall; Phil Stocker; Larry Terrell

9 -- Ashley Cordell; Al Dunn; Victor Ernst; Megyn McCormack

10 -- Annette Chinchilla; Donna Diedrich; Anthony Frattaroli; Mark Herring; Georgia Sullivan

11 -- Reese Channell; Amanda Richardson; Hudson Spinner; Albert White

12 -- Kinley Cordell; Craig Evans; Robin Medlock; Robin Standley; Margot Whitten

13 -- Kathy Sizemore; Evelyn Smith

14 -- Lauren Meyer; John Turner

15 -- Sheryl Asbury; Doris Dunn; Dawn Edwards; Becky Grossoehme; Angie Haskell; Kenny Heim; Darlene Williams

WELCOME TO SABRINA HINES - RECEPTIONIST

We are excited and grateful to share that the Session has approved calling Sabrina Hines as Unity's new Receptionist. Working from 8:30 am to 1 pm on Monday-Thursday, Sabrina will often be the voice you hear on the telephone when you call, the one who greets you at the door, and the one who coordinates volunteers who come to serve alongside the staff in the office. Her first day was Tuesday, September 8.

Sabrina and her husband Matthew joined Unity in September 2024, but her association with Unity goes back to her teenage years as she is the daughter of Dave and Isa Johnson. Sabrina and Matthew are the parents of twins - Boston and Rowan (12) and Indie (8). All three of them are graduates of the Unity Preschool. Sabrina brings professional experience as a receptionist, administrative assistant, team manager, sales representative, and teacher. She is an active Caregiver Volunteer with Isaiah 117 house (one of Unity's mission partners) and the Face to Face Foundation. We give thanks to God for Sabrina's gifts and this new opportunity to serve together.

COME TO THE TABLE: A SIX-WEEK SMALL GROUP ON THE LORD'S SUPPER OFFERED THIS FALL

Betty Crowell once wrote, "communion is a meal of many meanings." At Unity Presbyterian Church, as we gather at the Lord's Table, we are often reminded that Christ has promised to meet us as we celebrate the joyful feast of the people of God. While communion is best experienced rather than completely understood, we still might wonder with questions like "Who can participate in communion?", "Why and how often do we celebrate communion?", and "What exactly happens with this bread and the juice?" If you would like to explore more about the history, theology, and practice of The Lord's Supper in hopes of deepening your own faith and encounters with Christ in this sacrament, join Dr. Matt on **Sundays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. for six weeks beginning September 20**. Everyone is invited to join in this time of conversation and study because there will always be a place at the Lord's Table for you. **Find more information and register here.**

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTING TREES AT UNITY

As part of his journey toward earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Unity member and Troop 108 Scout, Archer Rozelle, created a self-guided tree trail highlighting many of the trees around Unity's campus. His project included making educational tree markers, a kiosk, and a map to help visitors explore and learn about the natural beauty surrounding our church.

Stop by the kiosk mounted near the Youth Wing entrance to pick up a brochure and enjoy the half-mile walking trail. Archer's project was made possible through the support of his fellow Scouts and Allen and Donna Batchelor. View the map here.

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

JOIN OUR NEW FRIDAY FITNESS CLASS

Bare Your Sole / Stretch and Strength Classes At Unity

Fridays from 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. — Bare Your Sole
Fridays from 11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. — Stretch and Strength

Tammy Woods is teaching fitness classes on Fridays at Unity. Tammy has taught these classes for years at the Complex and had a great following! Come give these classes a try and see what a difference they can make for You!!! Participants may take one or both classes for a total of $5. They meet in the Historic Sanctuary.

- **Bare Your Sole: Fridays, 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.** - A foot-focused class emphasizing strength, mobility, and balance. Includes foot exercises, manipulation techniques, and balance training.
- **Stretch and Strength: Fridays, 11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** - A blend of body-weight strength, stretching, and mobility designed to build muscle, increase flexibility, and improve balance and body awareness.

Please bring an exercise mat. And, if you are doing "Bare Your Sole" bring your favorite lotion for your feet (lotion will also be available in class).

As we begin these new classes, let's think about how important it is to care for our bodies. By strengthening, stretching, and caring for our physical selves, we enhance our ability to serve God with energy, joy, and endurance. These classes are one small but meaningful way we can invest in the health that supports our calling.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - THIS FALL

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. The group will meet on Tuesdays for six weeks beginning Tuesday, October 13, through Tuesday, November 17, from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Room (Room 201). 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. **To register or find out more** about this group, please contact Susan Mobley at swmnurse@gmail.com or Molly Spangler at mspangler@unityfortmill.org.

HEALTH CORNER:

It's "Back to School" time! Here are a few tips to help ensure kids going back to school stay safe and healthy:

- Make sure they get **plenty of sleep**; tired brains and bodies are never at their best!
- Ensure they **eat a good breakfast**; breakfast is our most important meal as it kickstarts the whole day!
- Make sure **appropriate vaccinations are up to date**; although opinions vary, most healthcare providers (including the Academy of Pediatrics), say research shows vaccinations are safe and do not cause autism.
- **Be interested** in their school day; make sure they know they have your support and can come to you with any problems or concerns, including bullying or thorny homework issues.
- Limiting screen time & **going to bed at a reasonable hour** can help make the next day brighter!

God bless all parents and supporters of students and teachers. Your roles are vitally important in ensuring the safety and vitality of the next generation!

COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGES

Parents, Unity sends care packages to our college students. Please email Dannie Vaughn at vaughndl@comporium.net and let her know your student's address. Thanks!

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

www.unityfortmill.org/whats-happening/

A PLACE AT THE TABLE - MINISTRY TEAM ANNUAL GOALS

As elders, deacons, and church staff members prayed, planned, and prepared for the 2026-2027 church program year, they have been guided by our Annual Vision for Ministry: "A Place at the Table" as well as the Strategic Mission Pathways adopted by the Session in December 2025 as ministry priorities for the next five years.

Each Ministry Team used these two guiding resources to set goals for the coming year. We will be sharing those goals over the next several newsletters, trying to group them around the Strategic Mission Pathways. The third pathway is:

3. **Cultivate Belonging and Commitment** - God created us for connection. At Unity, we seek to be a community where every person feels welcomed, accepted, and invited into meaningful participation. Belonging is not just about being present, it's about being known, valued, and engaged in a shared journey of faith and purpose. As our congregation grows, how can we create a more systematic and Spirit-led approach to welcome, hospitality, belonging, and participation—guiding people along the journey from curious observers to committed disciples?

2026-2027 Goals:

Congregational Care and Fellowship

- Successfully execute the reception for Liz Corsig in August, as well as the other events throughout the year
- Successfully transition from one team to two teams as we add the Fellowship Ministry Team
- Find new ways to encourage fellowship

Hospitality and Evangelism

Romans 15:7 - "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

- We will host 4 Welcome Coffees and 3 Connections Classes. During these events, we will be able to hear the stories of others, while sharing our own stories, thus forming new relationships.
- H&E is exploring ways to bring back New Member Shepherds, either through personal invitations or through a new Discipleship Small Group model, to help our new members find places of belonging and opportunities to be engaged in ministry.
- Our team will host 2 new member brunches. This will allow us to meet and share in smaller groups and have more personal conversations.

Stephen Ministry

- That Stephen Ministry will continue to be a ministry that welcomes all God's beloved to the table of Christ as we reach out to those going through challenging times.
- Through prayer and discernment, we will identify those who feel called to Stephen Ministry and discern if there is interest and need in offering a training class in the coming year.
- Stephen Ministers and Leaders will continue to seek and receive discernment from the Holy Spirit.
- This ministry will be Christ's presence to a hurting world.

Men's Ministry

- Expand TOY (Thinking of You) Cookies and Visitation Ministry to accommodate requests for more frequent contact visits.

Women of Unity

- To provide a place at the table by welcoming and creating belonging for all women as beloved children of God.

Youth Ministry

- Continue to cultivate spaces in which young people feel seen, loved, and deeply connected to God and one another.
- Create opportunities for youth to develop intergenerational relationships with adults of all ages, so that they might be supported on their journey of faith.
- Welcome youth visitors and new youth members with intentionality and develop a system to ensure that a lasting connection is established.
- Equip youth to be part of welcoming others by exploring hospitality as a Christian faith practice.

Communications

- Launch a comprehensive redesign of the Unity website to fully integrate our updated branding, streamline navigation, and create a more engaging online home for visitors and members.
- Expand the Media and Communications Team by recruiting and training volunteers to assist with photography and service broadcasts.

If you have any questions about these goals or would like to be a part of teams that are working together in ministry, please let Dr. Matt know.

MUSIC CAMP 2027

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! If your child is in 4K (having turned four by September 1, 2026), you may register, and then the Music Director will reach out to you to discuss if Music Camp is a good choice for your child. All 4K enrollees must participate in at least one session of Cherub Choir this fall.

We will rehearse and perform the musical "In the Image" by Mark Burrows. Through humorous, earnest exploration, our children will discover that being created in the image of God isn't about physical appearance. It's about creativity, faithfulness, responsibility, community, and the ability to find the good in things.

Camp runs **February 15 - 19, 2027, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**, with the performance on Friday, February 19, at noon. **Registration is free, but space is limited** to the first 40 registrants. **Registration opens on Realm on Thursday, October 1 at 8:00 a.m. and closes on November 30, or when registration is full. Register on Realm here.**

BACK TO BELLS

On Saturday, August 29, members of the Joyful Ringers attended a "Back to Bells" handbell workshop at St. Andrews United Methodist Church in Charlotte, which was sponsored by Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble. The event was attended by handbell choirs from churches across the Carolinas. We enjoyed a mass ring, practical breakout sessions to brush up on technique (we even learned some new tricks!), and fellowship with other ringers.

CUB SCOUT PACK 108 IS SELLING POPCORN!

Cub Scout Pack 108, chartered by Unity Presbyterian Church, is selling popcorn to help fund exciting adventures, outdoor activities, and community service projects throughout the year. To support our Cub Scouts, visit https://www.prpopcornstore.com/?sid=24UMYE or contact Drew Clarke at fortmillpack108cubmaster@gmail.com.

UNITY PRESCHOOL BOOK FAIRY CAMPAIGN

Unity Preschool is excited to begin our 21st year this fall! We opened in late August with five classes, 54 students, and 11 Staff members. Here are three ways that you can support Unity Preschool during the 2026-27 school year:

- **Book Fairy Campaign:** Unity Preschool recognizes that reading together is a simple yet powerful way to help young children develop literacy skills. We are raising funds to provide our students with one book a month. We hope these books will inspire our families to read with their children and help our students develop a love of reading. When you become a Book Fairy by contributing to our campaign, you will help us raise funds to purchase books for our students. Any extra funds will go toward building our preschool library and will benefit our students for years to come. Will you become a Book Fairy for our students and donate to our campaign? You may donate online using Unity's website or you can visit our Scholastic page. If you give money via Unity's website, please choose "Preschool" as the fund and include "Book Fairy" in the notes. Thank you in advance for your support!
- **Preschool VIP (Volunteer Impacting Preschool):** If you would like to donate your time, we welcome volunteers to help in the classroom or with copying, laminating, and other special projects throughout the year. We offer very flexible schedules. Please contact Linda Bunge (preschoolatunity@gmail.com) for more information about this volunteer opportunity.
- **Prayer:** Prayers for a safe and healthy school year for our Staff and students are always appreciated.

JOIN US FOR CHILDREN'S SABBATH!

REGISTRATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL BEACH RETREAT CLOSES SEPTEMBER 30!

All current 9th-12th graders are invited to join us for a weekend of sabbath, connection, rest, and study at Murrell's Inlet, November 13-15, 2026. Sign-up here **by September 30**!

UNITY YOUTH BBQ FUNDRAISER 2026!

Our annual Unity Youth BBQ Fundraiser is back, and we are so excited to share some delicious food with our church family, while fundraising to offset the cost of trips and retreat for our youth. Tickets for Boston butts, pulled pork, and Brunswick stew will be sold in the Narthex after both services on Sundays, September 20 and 27. Cash, check, and card are accepted. You can also reach out to Angela Pope (803.412.2344) or Lori Glasco (704.299.7064) to purchase tickets. You can pick up your purchased items, as well as some tasty desserts on **Saturday, October 31, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. If you are unable to pick-up that day, items can be set aside for you. Youth, please sign-up here to volunteer with ticket sales, dessert donations, and BBQ prep and pick-up!

MONEY FOR MEALS SPECIAL OFFERING

For many years one of our annual special offerings has been Dimes for Hunger. We have collected our dimes during the month of September, and sent them to Providence Presbytery to be distributed through the Hunger Action Team. These offerings have been shared both locally here in our county, as well as internationally with mission partners abroad. Now, in the year 2026, dimes are not enough. Hunger is still present both close to home, and far away, and the price of groceries has continued to rise. In 1977 when Dimes for Hunger started, the average cost of groceries for a family of four was about $200 a month. Now the average range of the cost of groceries for that same family is anywhere from $900-$1,600 a month. In recognition of the continued need, we are shifting from dimes to all forms of money. Cash, checks, electronic, etc. We are asking for the month of September for everyone to give what they can as we continue to try and end hunger. **You can give each week, or collect your offering at home each time you eat a meal and bring it on Sunday, September 27.** A suggested gift amount is $1 per meal you eat, but any gift amount can make a big difference. For the entire month of September we will give money to provide meals. **To give, or for more information,** you can visit https://unityfortmill.org/give/special-offering/ or email Rev. Molly Spangler at mspangler@unityfortmill.org.

SHARING GOD'S BOUNTY

During October, your support is needed for our annual nonperishable food drive, Sharing God's Bounty, benefiting the Fort Mill Care Center. The Fort Mill Care Center will use our donated items to provide Thanksgiving meals for Fort Mill families. The items requested by the Care Center include the following: frozen turkey/chicken (these need to be dropped off at the Care Center), stuffing mix, boxed potatoes, fried onions, stuffing, canned tomatoes (not sauce), applesauce, canned yams, evaporated milk, flavored grits, cooking oil, toilet paper, paper towels, and aluminum foil. Please bring an item or two any time you are on campus during October. Your donations can be added to the display down the hall from the Narthex or drop them off in the donation boxes in the Fellowship Hall, Church Office, and Preschool Lobby. **The last day to bring items is Sunday, October 25**. Thanks in advance for your support of this outreach ministry.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAY - WOMEN'S BUILD

Habitat for Humanity®

Unity will join Habitat for Humanity of York County Women's Build on **Saturday, October 10**. We will work from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. building a home for the Wilkins family in Clover. Lunch will be provided by the Men's Ministry. We will learn our actual tasks as we get closer to the workday date. There is a job for all skills and abilities, 16 and older.

While a Women's Build encourages women to join the Habitat mission, men are also welcome.

Habitat homeowners take classes on financial literacy and home ownership, complete 250 hours of "sweat equity" by working on their own home and repay a 0% interest rate loan for the price of their home.

Contact Steve Hardy at stevehardy59@yahoo.com or 803.579.7341 to sign up.

HELP SUPPORT FAMILIES IN FORT MILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School is back in session, and for some Fort Mill families that is a relief. At the end of the 2025 school year more than 100 students in our district were struggling with housing insecurity. As a new school year begins, the Foundation for Fort Mill Schools is continuing their good work of supporting families whose resources are strained. There are two lists of needs that are kept updated throughout the year to help support students and their families. Please check these lists throughout the year and see if there is something you can give to help a student have a better school year. You can drop off all donations at Unity during office hours. If you have any questions, you can contact Pastor Molly at mspangler@unityfortmill.org.

Youth Needs Sign Up Genius
Family Needs Sign Up Genius

FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING WEEK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

What is Family Promise? Family Promise of York County provides a comprehensive and compassionate program of meals, shelter, and case management services to homeless families through a community network of congregations and staff that foster long-term self-sufficiency, independence, and success for families.

How is Unity involved in Family Promise? Once every 6 weeks, Unity serves as a host site for a week from Sunday to Sunday. Families arrive at church in the evening. They are served dinner and spend the night in one of the Sunday School rooms in the Youth Wing. They leave early each morning and go to work, attend school, or work on job skills at the Family Promise Center. We need several volunteers for the many different service opportunities during our hosting weeks.

Hosting Dates: 11/1 - 11/8
12/13 - 12/20

How can I help?

Wish List - Please support this ministry by purchasing an item from our Unity Family Promise Amazon Wish List. You can click here for the list or view it on our website at https://unityfortmill.org/missions/housing/.

Volunteer - We need over 50 people (families are welcome) during each hosting week to cook/serve dinner each night, help with set-up or take down on the Sundays of our hosting week, spend the night with our families, or wash laundry following our hosting week. If you cannot commit to being at church with our guests, there are other jobs you can do on your schedule (grocery shopping or laundry or mattress care). During our most recent hosting, we had the pleasure of serving three gracious and appreciative families with 5 adults and 6 children.

Questions? Email Dannie Vaughn (vaughndl@comporium.net). Thank you in advance for your support of this Outreach Ministry.

WORDS FROM A STEPHEN MINISTRY CARE RECEIVER IN ANOTHER STATE

"I realized that my Stephen Minister was a safe person who wasn't going to share what I told her with anyone else. From there we developed a deep relationship until I felt like I could truly share anything with her."

"My Stephen Minister did a wonderful job of creating a warm, caring space for me to process my emotions and work through my issues."

When you need a Stephen Minister to talk to 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.

We are here to listen and care!

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

ENDOWMENT IMPACT: 2026 HONDURAS HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

"Honduras truly was eye opening for me. I remember when we first got situated, I had never felt so out of place and uncomfortable in my life. But this discomfort is what really allowed me to put myself out there and grow as a person. I got to spend a wonderful time with my friends while also making a huge impact. Definitely a highlight of my year!"

Logan Bennett, 10th grade

"My time in Honduras was so eye opening and I am forever grateful for the experiences I got there. While we were there, we worked at numerous sites where we built homes alongside the families that were receiving them. There was something about working so hard on something that would make others so happy and improve their lives while getting to know the families at the same time that was so special. I really grew in my faith and feelings while in the beautiful country of Honduras and it is truly something I would like to do again and would encourage anyone interested to go!"

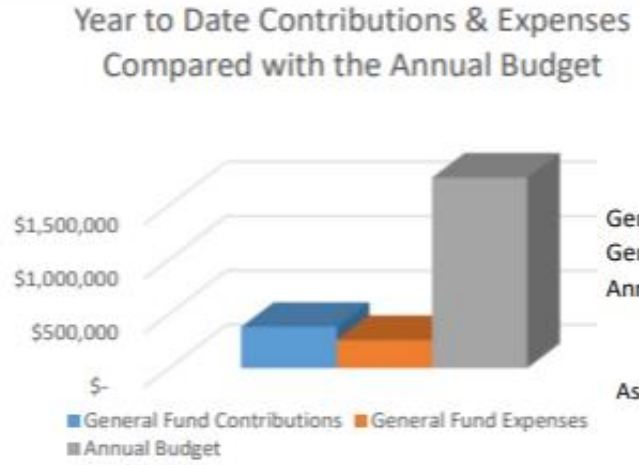
Bella Cardozo, 12th grade

"Honduras was a very special trip and opportunity for our group to learn so much more about different cultures and ways of life. We all had an amazing time, making new friends within and outside of our group. We made many new memories and learned valuable lessons about faith and community. The way their communities function without half of the resources and support that we have in the US is truly inspiring. It was a privilege to be welcomed into their homes and community as we were, and I would love to go back and continue to learn and feel as welcomed as we were."

Nicolas Schuhmacher, 12th grade

Leave a Legacy for What You Love

YEAR-TO-DATE 2025-2026 BUDGET UPDATE



	Aug-26	July 2026 through August 2026	% of Annual Budget	5-Year Average
General Fund Contributions	$ 159,577	$ 378,270	20.7%	$ 314,137
General Fund Expenses	141,854	256,359	14.0%	215,860
Annual Budget		1,826,194	100.0%	1,645,549

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

2026 ENDOWMENT GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT AND SUPPORT

This is the ninth year our Endowment will be making grants in ways that benefit the people within our church, and to our neighbors here and around the world.

Our Endowment supports ministry opportunities outside of the regular general fund budget. It can support an existing ministry in a new way, give an opportunity to try something new for the congregation or support a mission or community program beyond our current mission support.

This year a record $32,000 in grants will support the following ministries:

Ministry	Description	Amount Awarded
Outreach	Young Adult Honduran Mission Trip	$ 6,200
Congregation Support	Website Refresh	5,000
Outreach	Utility Trailer	3,750
Outreach	Children's Attention Home	3,650
Chirstian Education	Sabbatical Support for Kathryn McGregor	2,900
Evangelism	Young Life Leader Support	2,500
Worship	Live Nativity	2,500
Outreach	Defend the Fatherless	2,000
Outreach	Water Tank for Honduran Community	2,000
Outreach	Bethel Men's Shelter	1,500
Total		**$ 32,000**

Past 8 Years of Endowment Support - $90,062

Mission Outreach (34%) – Marshall, NC Church Recovery; Guatemalan Church Build; Honduran 10-Home Build; Tender Hearts Playground; Bethel Men's Shelter; Family Promise Beds; Disaster Clean-up Buckets; Life House Women's Shelter Shed; FMCC Utility Assistance; Pathways Social Days; La Mision-Guatemala; Pathways Community Center Upgrades; Pilgrim's Inn Dorothy Bing Women's Shelter Renovations; Haitian Yard Garden; Guatemalan Medical Clinic iPads; Honduran Eye Clinic; Providence Presbytery Living Waters of the World

Congregational Enhancement/Fellowship (25%) – Update Unity Brand Standards; Zoom Technology Upgrades, Lunch Bunch Programming; 235th Anniversary Lunch; Portable Community Sign; Light Weight Tables; Historical Document Preservation; Wheels for Heavy Session Chairs; Fellowship Hall Beverage Center; Narthex Upgrade; Chrismon Trees; Historical Materials Preservation; iPad with Credit Card Reader; Creative Connections Support

Christian Education - Children & Youth (24%) – High School Youth Honduras Mission; Preschool Park Picnic Tables; Middle School Hurricane Recovery Mission; Preschool Sensory Table & Supplies; Die Cut Machine; Workroom Shelving; Preschool Park & Playground Equipment; Laminator; Preschool Covid Protection Supplies; Children's Bibles; Youth Triennium; Bible Picture Gallery

Worship & Music (7%) - Needlepoint Parament Materials; Sabbatical Support - Margaret Monroe; Guest Preacher, Dr. Thomas Grier Long

Christian Education - Adults (6%) – First All Church Read; All Church Read Luncheon; Association of Partners in Christian Educators Book Donation; All Church Read Author; Yale Divinity School Scholarship - Jackson Ringley; Union Presbytery Seminary Endowment

Sensory/Disabilities Ministry (4%) - Sensory Room and Workspace; Therapeutic Toys

The Endowment is supported with contributions from donors who give today and by those who have included the Unity Endowment in their Estate planning. Online gifts can be made using your REALM login or by using this QR code:

GIFT TYPES

Will You Make a Plan for Unity's Future?

TYPE OF GIFT	BENEFIT TO DONOR	BENEFIT TO UNITY
Cash, Checks, Online Donations	Deductible for income tax purpose for itemizers.	Funds available for immediate use by Unity.
Appreciated stock / other securities	Charitable deduction eligible at full fair market value. No capital gains.	Funds available for immediate use by Unity.
Retirement accounts naming Unity as a beneficiary	No income and estate taxes on donation.	Legacy funding.
IRA qualified charitable distribution (QCD) / Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)	For ages over 70-1/2 and up assign a portion of the qualified distribution without recognizing income for tax purposes.	Significant support for the church.
Donor advised funds	Tax deductions when assets are transferred. Donor retains flexibility to decide amounts/timing of distributions.	Unity receives periodic fund payments.
In your will, bequest an amount or percentage of your residual estate.	Simple Beneficiary Designation. Control of assets over lifetime.	Legacy funding.
ANNUITY AND LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES		
Unity is named as a beneficiary policy, but not the owner.	Enables donor to make large future gift at small present cost. Donor may change beneficiary. Donor may borrow on policy.	Upon death of insured, Unity will receive the residual value of the policy.
Paid up policy is given to Unity	Tax deduction for value of policy when transferred.	Unity may borrow on or cash in policy, and/or receive face value of policy upon the insured's death.
Unity is made owner and beneficiary of a current policy.	Tax deduction for value of policy when transferred. Future policy premiums may be deductible.	Unity may borrow on or cash in policy, and/or receive face value of policy upon the insured's death.
PERSONAL TRUSTS		
Charitable Lead Trust	Tax advantages. Balance of trust paid to beneficiaries.	Unity receives fund payments for a period of time.
Charitable Remainder Trust	Income for a fixed term to the donor or their family.	Unity receives remaining trust assets.

Unity's Endowment Program is designed to provide support that is distinctly different than General Fund budget support or capital campaigns. It is primarily focused on taking advantage of unique opportunities to expand and enrich our mission to glorify God through worship, nurture and service to all people.

Consult your financial, legal or tax advisor to determine the best method for your financial situation.

Please consider an estate gift to Unity. FEI: 57-0360709

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER SPONSOR A CHARITABLE DONATION MATCHING PROGRAM?

What are employee matching gift programs? Employee matching gift programs are corporate giving programs in which the company matches donations that employees made through payroll deductions to eligible nonprofit organizations. It's an easy way to double your charitable contributions.

How do I request a matching gift? Requesting a matching gift is normally a five-minute process which must be initiated by the donor. This is typically accomplished online via your employer's Human Resources or Payroll Department's website. Some employers still use a paper process. Your Human Resources department can assist you with understanding your employer's process.

Your financial or tax advisor can help determine it this fits your financial situation.

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.

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

Facebook: @UnityFortMill

Be sure to "like" our page.