Life at Unity

Since 1788... United in Christ's love, we glorify God through worship, nurture, and service to all people.

A Message From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago in a sermon on Exodus 16, I focused on the Israelites looking back toward Egypt vs. forward toward the wilderness and the presence of the Lord. I'll admit, that was not the sermon I had planned to preach that day. My intention had been to come alongside Unity's Annual Vision of Ministry "A Place at the Table" and talk about the gift of manna and the work of collecting it every day. Because in addition to the way the Lord provides for the people with a daily practice of food collection and preparation, God also reintroduces to these former slaves a distinctive practice: Sabbath.

As professor Tyler Mayfield writes:

"The invitation for the Israelites to rest in the wilderness was a new concept after their former life in slavery, working themselves to death in the land of Egypt. ... We have no evidence Pharaoh took a day for rest or allowed his workers to do the same. Pharaoh forced a relentless lifestyle upon the Israelites, and the wilderness offered its own set of relentless challenges. Suddenly, the Israelites are faced with the question: Are we going to trust in the skills and strength we developed for ceaseless work and striving throughout slavery? Or, when everything else has been stripped away from us, are we going to stop and rest, and trust in God to provide?"
https://www.uncleishmael.com/rest-is-resistance/?ref=uncle-ishmael-newsletter

Do we face the same problem in our modern-day world that so often chooses work and striving over rest? Do we typically think that doing something - anything - is better than doing nothing? I have often heard it said that if we are doing "something for the Lord" we must be doing something right. But is that truly the case when one of the top 10 things God asks of God's people is to take a whole day off for rest?

Perhaps we are still getting used to the idea that our public schools are taking a full week break in October and another one in February. Why stop the learning process right in the middle of the semester? But could these breaks actually be a faithful time not to be filled with additional endless activity, but with a little rest? Could our children and youth, could all of us, benefit from a little more unscheduled time for joy, delight, and noticing the presence of the Lord.

This month, let's do our best to trust in God to provide as we remember Cole Arthur Riley's words:
"Rest is not the reward of our liberation, nor something we lay hold of once we are free. It is the path that delivers us there."

See you Sunday!
Matt

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Marti Christensen

Tigue Garick, with his children Helen, Amelia & Richard

Tyler & Elizabeth Kerwood, with their son Nathaniel

Barb Lubrecht

Bill & Rebecca Sears

Izzie Sullivan, with her daughters Harper & Zoe

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.

Social Media
Is the social media we consume in alignment with our love for God?

Does what we send out on social media reflect the love of Jesus Christ?

LATE OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

16 -- Kim Dracon; Bella Faulkenberry; Gretchen Whitesell
17 -- Gary Boetsch; Karen Bonds; Bruce DesErmia; Finley Dosch; Cheri Gall; Bill Goodwin; Pat McCabe; Davis Pratt; Scott Watson
18 -- Mike Ary; Archer Rozelle; Joyce Sullivan
19 -- Brooke Barrett; Kris Kellogg
20 -- Olivia Kuebler; Shane Lopuch; Linda McMullen; Maggie Thomasson; Lynn Young
21 -- Rick Dammann; Kay Iles; Abigail Lee; Jackson Lee; Denese Reichenbach
22 -- Linda Bunge; Jessica Carter; Nate Luebbe; Sharon McKown; Adam Sainz
23 -- Tori Hickerson; Chris Laviolette; Sissy Martin; Jean Nicholson; Carol Simon
24 -- Eric Cole; Stewart Tedford; Paul Whitsett
25 -- Allyson Calbreath; Lilly Crain; Cindy Epps; Steve Hardy; Justin Hunt; Jill Nordgren; Jessica Parise; Lily Pettus; Nolan Sova; Anthony Swainey
26 -- Karen Louthan
27 -- Stephanie Berens; Peter Olinger; Russ Savage
28 -- Alex Bennett; John Cardozo; Dave Hunt; Sue Joyce; Josephine Ryan; Katie Windom
29 -- Mignon Ballard; Jason Gamble; Ashleigh Roberds
30 -- Mary Lou Carberry; Megan Jennings; Kaelyn Kellogg; Mary Kimbrell; Zach Nutter
31 -- Sarah Hopfer; Joseph Melton; Mary Palmer

EARLY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 -- Nick Adams; Chris Bolettieri; Stephanie Nix; Finn Oakes; Beth Spratt; Caleb Wall
2 -- Ray Dellinger; Jody Elisha
3 -- Hudson Borland
4 -- James Gamble; Erika Teague; Falcon Woodward
5 -- Randi Sidwell
6 -- Sarah Egnor; Denise Fox; Thomas Spratt
7 -- Jack Beshers; Norah Beshers; Laura Bossert; Stephanie Gregory; Theresa Higgins; Tricia Oakes; Ella Oppel; Mike Ware
8 -- Becky Diak; Lucas Schuhmacher
9 -- Martha Broome; Liz Corsig; Austin Devaney; Bitsey Martin; Melissa Michael
10 -- Alan Anderson; Maven Carter; Berkeley Cole; Chloe Dasher; Abby Lake; Jim Smith; Alex Sullivan
11 -- Nick Bunge; Brynne Fisher; Eleanor Hattaway; Bill Hood; Ian Pearson; Banks Reigel; Violet Richardson; Claire Shaffer; Jacquelyn Wolfe
12 -- Kingsley Hart; Nicolas Litrenta; Zoe Sullivan; Charlie Veltri; Eli Whitesell
13 -- Brooks Bowers; Linda Crawford; David Neel; Tom Thomasson
14 -- Joanna Key; Scott Michael; Jamie Weller
15 -- Miller Hall



THANK YOU TO MICHAELA BRASWELL

Michaela Braswell joined the Unity Presbyterian Church Ministry Team as Communications Specialist in June 2021. She has been a gift as she has managed the wide range of communications at Unity, including the bulletin, newsletter, website, Facebook, Instagram, and graphic design. In many ways she has enabled us to share with members and the community all the good work that God is up to in our church. We are grateful!

Michaela is taking a step away from work as her husband begins a new job and to focus on other interests and needs. Her final day in the church office will be Tuesday, October 27. Thank you Michaela for sharing your gifts with Unity Presbyterian Church over the last five years.

The search for Unity's next Communications Specialist is underway. If you are interested in the position, would like to learn more, or know of someone who might be a good fit for our ministry team, please contact Dr. Matt at the church office.



REFORMATION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

On Sunday, October 25, at the 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services, Unity will mark Reformation Day with a unique service drawing on our history and our dreams as a congregation. It's also a day we encourage everyone to wear their Unity tartan or family tartans. As we prepare for worship on Reformation Day, may we remember the challenge of the reformation to be a "church reformed, always being reformed."



CAMPUS TOUR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Regardless of how long you've been attending Unity, members of the H&E team will be guiding a tour of the church buildings, on Sunday, October 25. The tour will **start in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.**

WRITE A DEVOTION FOR ADVENT

SIGN UP TODAY



The theme for Unity's Advent devotions this year will be: "A Place for..." and will focus on the words associated with each of the Advent wreath candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ. Sign up for a particular day's scripture. Then, write a brief (250 word) devotion sharing how that scripture connects to that week's word and what it has to say to you as you prepare for the coming of the Christ child. Devotions may be written by individuals, couples, or families of all ages. Artwork by people of all ages is also welcome. Contact Kathryn McGregor at KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org for instructions on submitting artwork. **The deadline for turning in your devotions is November 8.**

ALL SAINTS DAY SERVICE

NOVEMBER 1

The church has long marked All Saints Day on the Sunday closest to November 1. As this year, November 1 is a Sunday we will remember All Saints at both services with music, scripture, sermon, prayer, and communion. In these services of memory and hope, we will remember each of the members of Unity Presbyterian Church who have died in the past year as we both acknowledge the pain of loss and celebrate the good news of resurrection in which we stand. We hope you will be able to join in worship and in memory on this important day.

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS EVE

SERVICE TIMES AND DETAILS

Almost 1500 people attended Christmas Eve Services at Unity last year! What a gift!
There will be more information to come in the months ahead, but as you make plans with your family for Christmas, we hope that you will be able to attend one or more of these services as we celebrate Christ's birth and God's gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that transform the world even now:

- 11 AM - Children and Family Service
- 2 PM - Service of scripture lessons and singing familiar carols, with communion
- 4 PM - Service with chancel choir, communion, and candlelight
- 6 PM - Service with special music, communion, and candlelight
- 11 PM - Service with scripture lesson, familiar carols, communion, and candlelight





LUNCH BUNCH

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, AT NOON

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, October 28, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Atty. Barry Mack (Barron B. Mack, Jr.) will share the basic issues and concerns when planning for your death and disability, including the use of Last Wills, Trusts, and Powers of Attorneys. There will be some discussion of related issues such as probate administration, probate avoidance, estate taxes and Medicaid planning. Lastly, what considerations go into charitable giving and the methods to achieve that goal as a part of your estate plan. Bring your salad or sandwich for lunch. Chips, drinks, and desserts are provided.



SIGN UP FOR CPR CLASS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 AT 9:30 A.M.

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(CPR), 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.



HEALTH CORNER

UNITY'S MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CLOSET

Did you know? We have a medical equipment closet located in the lower level of the Ministries Building! This equipment has been donated and is available for short-term loans. If you need any of these items for a few weeks contact Susan Mobley swmnurse@gmail.com or call the church office. We have these items: wheelchairs (transport and standard), knee walkers, walkers, rollators, crutches, shower chair or bench, ice machine for after knee or shoulder surgery, bedside commode, side rails for a bed and a battery powered scooter chair. When borrowing equipment please sign the items out with your name and date on the white board provided.



CIRCLE OF GRACE

A GRANDMOTHERS' PRAYER GATHERING

Grandmothers are invited to join the Circle of Grace, a warm and welcoming group dedicated to praying for our grandchildren. We gather out of love for them, hope for their future, and a desire to engage our faith through intentional prayer. This group meets on the last Thursday of every month at **10:00 a.m. in the Heritage Room**. Our next meeting is **Thursday, October 29**. Come and share in this time of encouragement, fellowship, and prayer as we lift up the next generation. If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to Joan DeBruyn via text at 919.441.0627.

DECADES OF CARE THROUGH STEPHEN MINISTRY

Since Stephen Ministry began in 1975, millions of people from around the world have received emotional and spiritual care from a Stephen Minister during a challenging time in their life. Here at Unity Presbyterian Church, our Stephen Ministers are ready to come alongside you, no matter what you are facing. They are trained to provide a non-judgmental presence, a patient listening ear, and Christ-centered care that meets you where you are in life. If you are going through a difficult time, we encourage you to consider having a Stephen Minister. Join the thousands of others who have benefited from a caring Christian presence walking with them through challenging times. For more information, please contact one of our coordinators, Susan Mobley or Dave Johnson, via email at Stephenministryreferrals@unityfortmill.org or call Rev. Molly Spangler at the church office - 803.547.5543.

SHARING GOD'S BOUNTY

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER



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 WOMEN'S BUILD

RESCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Unity will join Habitat for Humanity of York County Women's Build on Saturday, November 7, 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. 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. Please contact Steve Hardy at stevehardy59@yahoo.com or 803.579.7341 to sign up.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31



Do you have a special animal in your life? On Saturday, October 31, you are invited to drop by the front lawn of the church any time between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. with your pet for a blessing. All creatures great and small, real or imagined, furry or stuffed, scaly or covered in feathers are welcome. Have a pet who doesn't travel well? We will have blessings for you to take home with you as well. We do ask for the peace of all God's creatures that you bring pets on a leash or in a carrier. Hope to see all God's creatures there!

THORNWELL DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

On Sunday, November 22, at 12:15 p.m. the Outreach Ministry Team invites you to a screening of Thornwell's new documentary in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Thornwell is one of our long-standing mission partners here in South Carolina, and November 22 is our annual Sunday when we share updates on the ministry they are doing and take up a special offering for them. The documentary will last about 30 minutes, with time for questions with their staff members as well. There will be door prizes and brunch food so plan to stay after worship as we spend time with our mission partners that day. All are invited and we hope to see you there.



Dates: October 24 and 31
Address: 1875 W. Maple Street Ext., Clinton, SC, 29325
Shifts: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, or 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Minimum volunteer age: 16
Ideal volunteer group size: 10-12 individuals (groups of all sizes are welcome!)

Volunteers receive a LushAcres Farm volunteer t-shirt, a meal credit, snacks, and free admission to the festival for the day! That means that morning shift volunteers are welcome to stay and enjoy the festival afterward at no cost, and afternoon shift volunteers are welcome to come early and enjoy the morning at no cost, too. If you are interested, please visit **lushacresfarm.com/volunteer**

This is a wonderful way to connect with the children and families Thornwell serves, spend quality time as a church family, and put your faith into action (James 2:14-27).





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, **click here** or contact Drew Clarke at fortmillpack108cubmaster@gmail.com.

MUSIC CAMP 2027

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



Registration is now open for Music Camp, and spaces are filling up quickly! Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us, and children in 4K (having turned four by September 1, 2026) may register with director approval. Music Camp is 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 is now open and closes on November 30, or when registration is full.** Register on REALM.

UNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIRS



The next session of Children's Choir begins on November 8th. Even if you couldn't participate in our first session, please join us this time around as we learn songs to sing for upcoming Advent worship services. Cherub Choir (children who turned 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 any children singing for the first time this school year on Realm (returning singers do not need to register again). Contact Margaret Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org or 803.547.5543 with any questions. Come make a joyful noise!





FUN TIMES AT FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT!











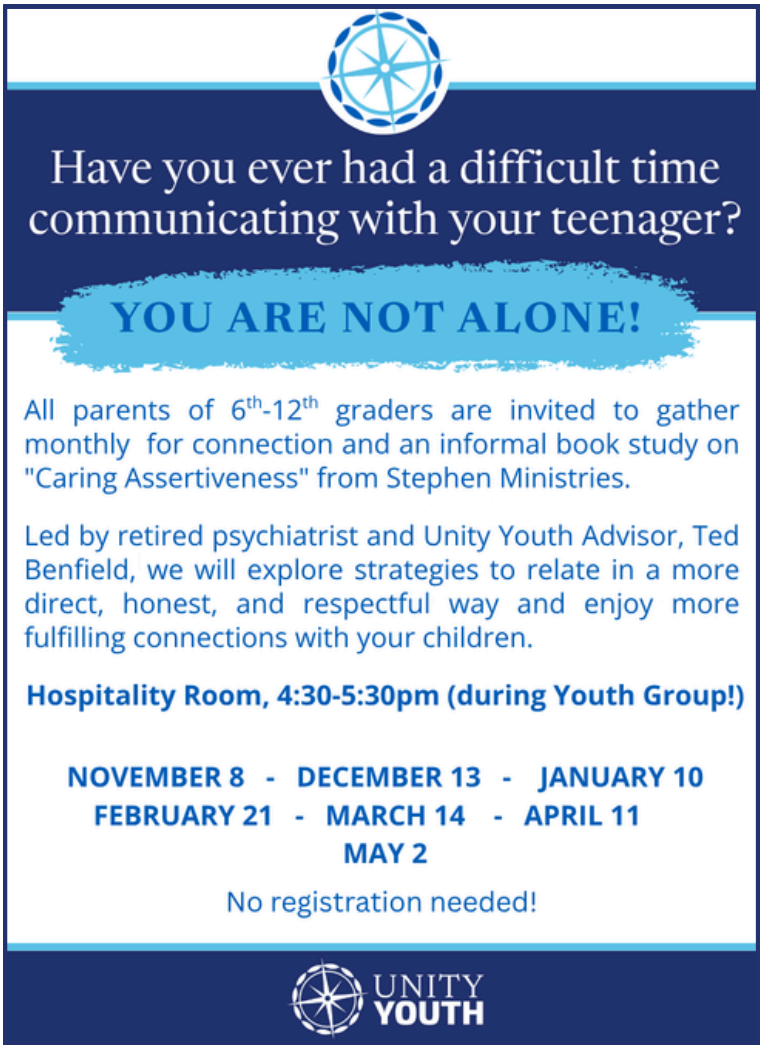








JOIN FOR A PARENTS OF YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUP MONTHLY DURING YOUTH GROUP!

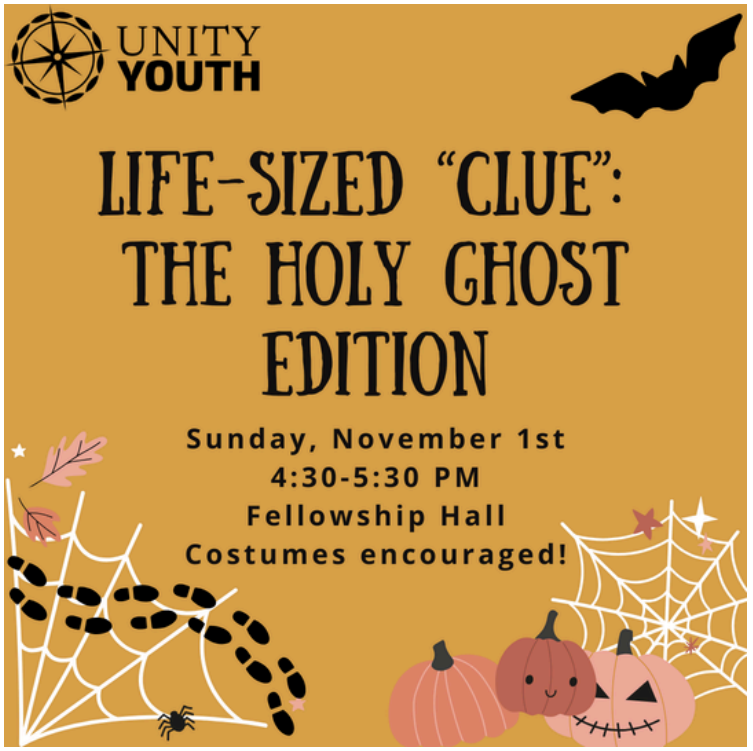


REGISTER FOR YOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SKI WEEKEND!



All current 9th - 12th graders are invited to join us January 29 - 31, 2027, for a weekend of skiing and snowtubing in Winterplace, West Virginia! **Registration closes Friday, October 30**. See details and register here!









UNITY YOUTH BAKE BREAD

EXPLORING THE LORD'S SUPPER

Unity middle & high school youth had a great time baking bread together that will be used during the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in worship at Unity! We explored the meaning of the Lord's Supper and the way that this sign and seal of God's grace unites us in deeper relationship with Christ and with Christians all over the world!

CONFIRMATION RETREAT 2026

Confirmands and their mentors participated in an awesome weekend retreat with CROSS Missions at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. This mission-focused weekend reminded us of the biblical and theological foundations of mission and service. God calls each of us to use our gifts to pursue justice for all of God's people. Confirmands and their mentors put God's justice and love into action by serving at Crisis Assistance Ministry and at Kinship Plot at The Grove Presbyterian Church.











UNITY YOUTH PACK BREAKFAST BAGS

FOR BETHEL MEN'S SHELTER

On Sunday, September 27, Unity Youth gathered to pack breakfast bags for neighbors experiencing homelessness at the Bethel Men's Shelter. Followed by an epic game of Capture the Flag!



REGISTER NOW FOR COLLEGE STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

Unity College Students & Young Adults are invited to register now for a mission trip to visit our long-time partners in **Honduras, May 24 - 31, 2027**! The trip will be led by Gloria and Tim Wheeler, retired Presbyterian Church Mission Co-Workers who bring decades of experience in Honduras. Liz Corsig will also help lead this trip. This will be a work trip, as participants will be split into work teams to build houses in the small villages of the Copan region of Honduras. The total cost for participants (including all flights, meals, activities, housing, etc) is $1,600 per person. Note that this total does not include the cost of a passport and necessary vaccines. More details and registration available on Realm.

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 second pathway is:

> 2. Nurture Faith Formation for All Ages and Life Stages - Faith formation is a lifelong journey. At Unity, we seek to nourish this journey by creating opportunities for all generations to learn, grow, and deepen their understanding of scripture and discipleship. We are called to support spiritual development in ways that are age-appropriate, engaging, and rooted in community. As our congregation grows, how can we nurture vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable faith formation for all ages?

Adult Discipleship Ministry

- Provide Study Opportunities around our Annual Vision...A Place at the Table. Sundays & weekdays.

Youth Ministry

- Continue to cultivate spaces in which young people feel seen, loved, and deeply connected to God and one another.
- Continue to invite young people into leadership and outreach opportunities in which they can use their gifts to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, both within the walls of the church and beyond.
- Create opportunities for youth to develop intergenerational relationships with adults of all ages, so that they might be supported on their journey of faith.
- Equip youth with practices of prayer, worship, and scripture study that they can continue to cultivate throughout their lives.
- Continue to offer Mental Health resources & programs for youth and their families

Children's Ministry

- Continue to help children encounter Christ and build relationships within the church through ongoing Sunday Morning Faith Formation and intergenerational family events.
- Offer an opportunity during two Sundays in December for high school students to partner with younger children to create quilt squares for an Advent banner.
- Invite High school students to partner with younger children for the Wax Museum which, along with the Advent project, will help foster organic relationships between children and youth within the church.

Stephen Ministry

- 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.

Health Ministry Team

- The Health Ministries Team commits to welcoming all into the caring, fellowship, and learning that takes place in the classes and events we plan to sponsor. We commit to spur one another on to show up, to connect, and to reap the many benefits associated with:
  - The Hiking Challenge
  - The Daniel Plan classes
  - CPR/AED classes
  - Kayak trip on the Catawba River
  - Care teams, as needed
  - Fitness exercise, dance, yoga, and yoga tools for Parkinson's
- We will also:
  - continue maintaining AED's, First Aid kits, and medical equipment closet
  - continue contributing health tips to the newsletter

Women of Unity

- Promote spiritual development and fellowship through Bible studies, events, small groups, retreats and/or circle groups.
- Continue to update and distribute new printed materials and enhance our online presence to reflect our ministry and its many opportunities for all women.

Worship and Music

- Mentorship in Service: Establish structured mentorship opportunities where experienced leaders guide and encourage members in liturgical, musical, and technical service roles.

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.

UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LEGACY AWARD HONOREES

Each year, the Session of Unity Presbyterian Church is invited to nominate either individuals or couples as our recipients of the Providence Presbytery Legacy of Faith Award. For 2026, we are honored to select Ruth and Gary Boetsch and Steve and Karen Chase as our honorees. They were recognized at a luncheon at Beth Shiloh Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, October 6.



RUTH AND GARY BOETSCH

Ruth and Gary have been members of Unity since 1980 and have served in a wide variety of ways across those 46 years. Both have served as elders and Gary as a deacon. For many years they coordinated the Monday Morning Bible Study Group and attended Monday Musings. As a member of the Worship and Music Ministry Team, Ruth helped train and support acolytes and offered her own musical talents on the violin. Gary was a trusted member of the Human Resources Ministry Team, dedicated time to the church grounds on work days, and was an active member of the Men's Ministry and various church golf groups. Together they would volunteer to serve communion and worked behind the scenes on the sanctuary guild. In fact, Ruth and Gary's prayerful presence, generous spirit, and faithful work were integral to the construction of the new sanctuary. This summer Ruth and Gary moved to be closer to family, but have retained their membership at Unity. We miss them and yet know they are already a blessing to new friends and neighbors in the same ways they have been a blessing to us. And so, in celebration of their many gifts and years of service to the Lord, Unity Presbyterian Church is delighted to recognize Ruth and Gary Boetsch as 2026 Providence Presbytery Legacy of Faith Honorees.



STEVE AND KAREN CHASE

Steve and Karen Chase joined Unity in 1991 and have served faithfully for the last 35 years. Steve has served as an elder and deacon, and especially since his retirement, he has embraced the Men's Ministry and Buildings and Grounds, serving as moderator or chair of both groups as well as a dedicated volunteer. Steve is at the church almost every Friday to complete a variety of projects and will often come early during summer mornings to water flowers and plants around campus. Director of Operations Zeno Wall shared, "Steve's continued presence on campus, his willingness to support our efforts in so many areas, and the insight he still shares today all reflect his steadfast faith and deep commitment to Unity. Most importantly, I am grateful to call Steve my friend." Karen has served in similar ways as a dedicated member for many years of the Human Resources Ministry Team, a church office volunteer, and as a member of the Wednesday Bible Study. She recently completed a scrapbook of Unity's history. Her contagious and welcoming spirit makes a place for everyone and her faithful invitations help our congregation and ministry grow. And so, in celebration of their faithfulness and years of service to the Lord, Unity Presbyterian Church is delighted to recognize Steve and Karen Chase as 2026 Providence Presbytery Legacy of Faith Honorees.



THANK YOU FROM PAM BRIGHT

DEAR UNITY FAMILY,

I am humbled by the cards, gifts, well-wishes and retirement advice from all of you. I have received so many blessings as a staff member of this church, working with our talented staff and gifted congregation. I am grateful for the opportunity I've had to grow with this church over the past seventeen years.

Thank you,

Pam Bright

ENDOWMENT IMPACT

UNITY BRAND STANDARDS

The Communications Team is deeply grateful for the support of Unity's Endowment Fund in helping us strengthen and unify the church's visual identity. Through endowment funding, we were able to update and expand our Unity Brand Standards Guide, creating a clear and consistent framework for how we communicate across print and digital media.

In addition, these funds made it possible to develop new logos and branding for Children and Youth Ministries. These refreshed visual identities help our youngest members and their families more easily recognize and connect with these ministries while maintaining a strong relationship to the overall Unity brand.

The result is a more welcoming, professional, and cohesive presentation of our church's ministries, making it easier for members, visitors, and the community to engage with all that God is doing through Unity.

We are thankful for the Endowment's investment in tools and resources that support effective communication and help us share Christ's love with clarity, consistency, and excellence.

2027-2028 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

GOING PAPERLESS



To reduce printing costs, Unity is offering a PAPERLESS option for receipt of Stewardship Materials for the 2027-2028 campaign. **If you would like to opt-in to receive your 2027-2028 Stewardship Materials via this paperless option, please register your preference here.** If you register to go paperless, you will receive an email in April 2027 with links to all Stewardship Materials and instructions on how you can submit your pledge and time & talent interests online. If you prefer to submit these items by paper, there is nothing you need to do. Traditional Stewardship Packets will be prepared for all members who do not register for the paperless option by February 1, 2027. Paper copies of all stewardship materials will also be available in the Narthex beginning April 2027.

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.

Will You Make a Plan for Unity's Future?

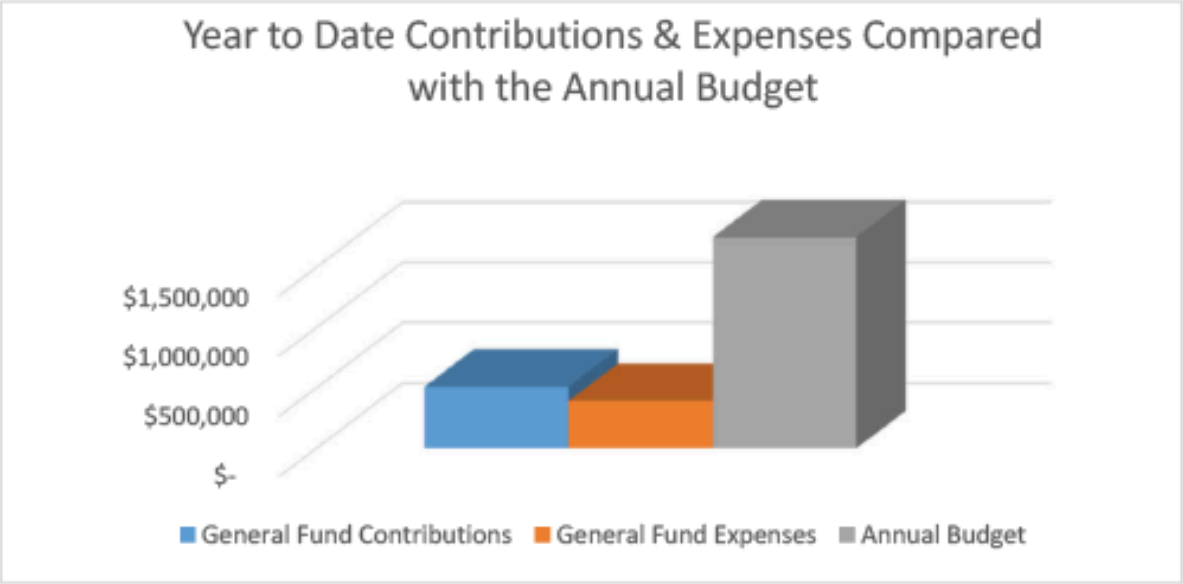
Questions often arise in the coming months about the benefits of different giving vehicles. Everyone's financial situation is different so there is no "best" answer for everyone. Below are brief descriptions of the types of gifts we receive at Unity.

TYPE OF GIFT	BENEFIT TO DONOR	BENEFIT TO UNITY
Cash, Checks, Online Donations	Deductible for income tax purposes.	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 or estate taxes on donation.	Legacy funding.
IRA qualified charitable distribution (QCD) / Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)	For ages 70-1/2 & 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 of a policy.	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 as defined in the trust.
Charitable Remainder Trust	Income for a fixed term to the donor or their family.	Unity receives remaining trust assets.

FOR MORE INFORMATION regarding the Endowment Program contact our Financial Manager, Debbie Eggleston. Please consult with your legal, tax and financial professionals to provide you with guidance and educational information that may be of help for your specific choices.

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2026-2027 BUDGET UPDATE



	September 2026	July 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026	% of Annual Budget
General Fund Contributions	$ 133,395	$ 511,665	28.0%
General Fund Expenses	136,508	392,867	21.5%
Annual Budget		1,826,194	100.0%

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

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Share Your Tithes and Offerings Online

Return Service Requested

Thank you for supporting God's ministry through Unity Presbyterian Church.