

Life at Unity

May 4, 2021



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

A MESSAGE FROM MATT

Dear Friends,

It was not that long ago that the Presbyterian Church began to recognize that women had gifts for ordained ministry just like men. Women had always led very successful women's organizations for education, mission, and fellowship, but they were not allowed to be ordained as elders. Because they were not elders they were not allowed to speak on the floor of the General Assembly and so had to have men give the reports from their agencies. Two women, Katherine Jones Bennett and Margaret Hodge wrote a report titled "Causes of Unrest among the Women of the Church" and presented it to the 1930 General Assembly. Due to the persuasive nature of this report the Assembly voted to ordain women as elders.

So women began to serve as elders in the church in the 1930's but there was still an office they were forbidden to hold. It was not until 1956 that the church voted to ordain women as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Margaret Towner was the first woman to be ordained. Since that time the number of women who have attended seminary and entered the ministry has steadily increased. In fact, over 50% of the students studying in Presbyterian seminaries today are female. What the church declared in its 1991 *Brief Statement of Faith* "We trust in God the Holy Spirit ... who calls women and men to all ministries of the Church", is now becoming a reality.

Mothers' Day is a day we can celebrate the gifts God has given women for all ministries of the Church. The Women of Unity are an active bunch with circles, bible studies, mission, service, fellowship, and even an auction of historic pews! I encourage you to make a special effort to say thanks to the Women of Unity for their faithful ministry and to God for calling the women of this church to be such leaders in faith.

See you on Sunday!

Matt

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

ON MOTHER'S DAY, May 9th, Unity will receive the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina Mother's Day Offering. Since 1954, South Carolina Presbyterians have developed a long tradition of generously supporting this offering as a special way of remembering and caring for older adults. Presbyterian Communities operates six retirement communities across the state of SC. Donations received are used exclusively for those residents who, through no fault of their own, have outlived their financial resources and need assistance to remain in Presbyterian Communities. For more information or to donate, visit: <https://unityfortmill.org/happenings/mothers-day-special-offering/>.

CONGRATULATIONS to Nancy Hudspeth in the birth of her grandson, "Thomas Brown Hobson," on April 19, 2021. Parents are Davidson & Carolina Hobson of Gastonia, NC, and proud siblings are Ann Caroline & Robert. Congratulations also to great-grandparents, Bob & Ann Hudspeth!



For more information on "What's Happening" at Unity, please visit... www.unityfortmill.org/whats-happening/

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

LATE MAY BIRTHDAYS

16 -- Katelyn Evans; Evelyn Hice; Elizabeth Leventis; Rick Shannon

17 -- Jennifer Estes; Kristain McCabe

18 -- Michelle Meyer; Seth Nordgren; Jackson Rozelle

19 -- Kameron Coffman; Frank Miller; Chalmers Rogers

20 -- John Clark; Vickey Fulton; Liz Hood; Elliott Norman; Jan Norman; Grey Young

21 -- Hunter Egnor; John Fulton; Alice Hart

22 -- Clayton Cowart; Ashley Trueb

23 -- Meredith Hattaway; Brenda Mullis; Alta Routh; Mackenzie Williams; Thomas Windell

24 -- Beth Anderson; Margaret Macaulay; Patsy Surratt

25 -- Clayton Dickson; Jordyn Friedman; Susan Hereford; Blakely Martin; Laura Sizemore

26 -- Frank Anderson; Nick Kilbarger

27 -- Georgia Kern

28 -- Margaret Gribble; Hannah Robbins; Brandi Spratt; Jack Windell

29 -- Miranda Hopkins; Lana McDonald; Katy Rolison; Brenda Stewart

30 -- Mary Martin

31 -- Ella Kate Bence; Michelle Hoffman; Karen Wright

The Joy Set Before Us: Thanks to everyone who made a financial pledge and time and talent commitment as part of the campaign. The ministry of our church is only possible through the financial support and the volunteering of “time and talent” of our members.

Currently we have 324 effective pledges that total \$1,200,000. Coupled with our projected starting cash funds, we project we will be right at the initial draft budget for the 2021-2022 year – which is \$1,448,000.

We are still fine tuning our plans for the 2021-2022 program year so it’s not too late make a financial pledge or “time & talent” commitment to actively support Unity’s ministries.

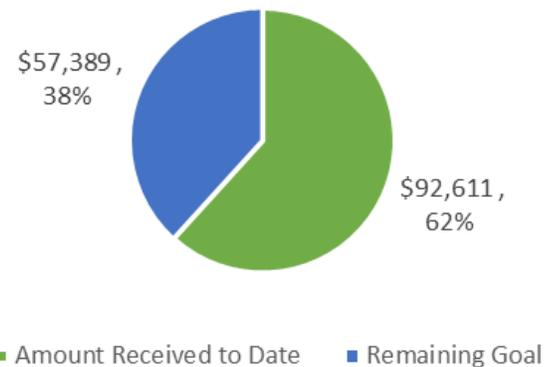
As important as stewardship is to our church—both funding and volunteering, we encourage everyone to have proactive awareness of fellow church members, visitors, and members of our community that are simply in need. Members and visitors who are in pain, who are conflicted, or who are suffering typically do not volunteer their troubled scenario, but they may show it in subtle ways. Having awareness to spot such scenarios—and the compassion to offer hope and comfort accordingly, may very well be the greatest gift we can give each other. And, bring joy to all of us in the process!

Again, thank you for your generous support of the campaign. We hope you continue to find joy in the participation of the ministries of our church.



SANCTUARY DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES CAMPAIGN - APRIL 26, 2021



JOIN US FOR A CONGREGATION PICNIC

SUNDAY, MAY 23: Join us for a Pentecost Congregational Picnic on Sunday, May 23 from 3-5 pm at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center, 922 Mt. Gallant Rd, York, SC.

Wear red and bring a picnic for your family, a blanket or camp chairs, and a kite if you have one. We will meet on the front field at camp for Pentecost crafts, games, and story time. Your family can walk the Labyrinth in the Pines, join others for a game of Gaga ball, take a tour of camp, or enjoy a family hike. Families of all shapes, sizes and ages are welcome.



Bring your children, grandchildren, or just come enjoy time with your Unity family. Cupcakes will be provided by the Children's Ministry Team as we celebrate the birthday of the Christian church. To register, visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EAFAC29A2F94-unity1> by noon on Wednesday, May 19.

SUMMER FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 27 & JULY 25: Families with children should mark their calendars now for two Family Fun Nights this summer to be held on the front lawn at Unity on Sundays, June 27 and July 25 from 5-7 pm. Bring a blanket or camp chairs and enjoy carnival games run by our youth ministry. Food trucks will be available both months. No registration needed.

THANK YOU SARAH HOPFER

Sarah Hopfer joined the Unity Presbyterian Church Ministry Team as Communications Specialist in February 2020. What a gift she has been, especially throughout the pandemic, as our primary way of communicating as a congregation has shifted from in-person to online. Sarah's work with the website, newsletter, weekly emails, and Facebook have brought us closer together as a church and helped our ministry continue in faithful ways.

Sarah has received a new call to full time work in a field that matches her particular gifts, so she will be leaving our ministry team. However, she, Clark, and Avery continue to call Unity their church home, so we're counting on seeing her often! Thank you Sarah for the gift you are and all that you have brought to Unity Presbyterian Church as Communication Specialist!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Christians are Easter people. You are an Easter person – you know the transforming power of Jesus Christ that renews and recreates. But very often the world looks less like Easter and more like Good Friday. Rather than resurrection or rebirth, hurting people may be experiencing the darkness of a personal Golgotha.

If you are hurting, please consider a Stephen Minister. Contact Susan Mobley at swmnurse@gmail.com or cell 704-575-7344 with questions.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR OUR NEXT COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST!

The Communications Specialist position is a creative role, as well as being sharply focused on the effectiveness of our communications. This position has a significant role in the positioning of Unity Presbyterian with both internal and external audiences.

For more information and to view the full job description, visit: <https://unityfortmill.org/about-us/careers/>

LIVE ON THE LAWN: WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

We had so much fun worshipping on the lawn on Wednesday nights in September and October that we want to do it again in May!

In addition to our Sunday morning 8:45 AM Live on the Lawn service each week, we will worship Live on the Lawn at 7:00 PM on the Wednesdays in May beginning on May 5th. Drive and park on the lawn, set up your chairs, and enjoy the beautiful weather with a 30 minute service of prayer, scripture, sermon, and singing! A variety of musicians will join Director of Music Margaret Monroe to lead us.

Our theme will be “The Family of God” and we’ll be exploring the parable of the Father who had Two Sons. No registration required, so invite your friends to join you!

GRADUATE RECOGNITION



Dear 2021 High School Graduates and families,

Congratulations! Your senior year is almost over, and the world is literally at your fingertips. Pause for a moment, take a deep breath, and enjoy the next two months, as there will never be anything quite like them. Unity Presbyterian Church would like to join you in celebration of your accomplishment by honoring the graduating high school seniors on **Sunday, June 6 at 11:00 am** worship service.

Graduate recognition forms can be found by visiting: <https://unityfortmill.org/happenings/graduate-recognition/>. The form contains information about you and your future plans, and the information will be run in our newsletter and on social media throughout June.

Please complete the form and return it to the church office no later than **Tuesday, May 18**. Thank you for your participation in this ministry. I look forward to celebrating you on June 6!

Peace of Christ, **Kaiti Bryant**, Youth Director (kbryant@unityfortmill.org)

ALL CHURCH READ

Our 2021 Lenten All-Church Read raised \$487.20 for the Emergency Need Fund at Unity which allows our church to assist Fort Mill residents with utilities and, in some cases, rent. Unity Post, our mailboxes for sending Christmas cards to church families without paying postage, typically provides funds for our Emergency Need Account; however, since our building was not open this past Advent and Christmas, we were not able to utilize Unity Post.

Books for our All-Church Read were purchased at a bulk discount price, sold for \$10 each, and all extra monies collected were donated to the Emergency Needs Fund. So far this year, Unity has provided \$1,900 to Fort Mill residents in need of assistance with paying bills. On average, the church receives requests for assistance and distributes approximately \$3,500 each year. Thank you to those who participated in the All-Church Read, we continue to make a difference in our local community.

Unity Presbyterian Church
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Fort Mill, SC 29716-1267

www.UnityFortMill.org

JOIN US SUNDAY

8:45 a.m.
Live on the Lawn

11:00 a.m.
Livestream Worship



Return Service Requested

OUTREACH COORDINATOR NEEDED

As we prepare for Unity's next fiscal year, we are looking for a volunteer to coordinate Classroom Ready, a community program that helps equip local students for success in school.

Interested? Want to learn more? Contact John Lee at
anj2lee@gmail.com.