

HELLO Spring 2026 the Newsletter



"Loving God - Loving People"
www.weareunion.org

Dear Members & Friends,

We are entering the Lenten/Easter season. It is a time to look honestly at ourselves. **Doubt** steals our hope! **Anxiety** robs us of peace! **Law** enslaves us and steals our peace. **Shame** blinds us and steals God's grace and forgiveness.

But God sent His Son and Jesus says, "Come to me. Bring it! Hand it over! There is **NOTHING** in your life I can't handle; **NOTHING** your Heavenly Father cannot forgive! I am more than all the weight you carry. I took it upon myself at the cross."

In this Lenten/Easter season, I cannot completely comprehend the love of God, the kindness of Jesus; this King of Kings who turns all our mourning into dancing, our cries into laughter, our sorrows into joy. Do you see it? The tomb is empty; my grave is empty...and Heaven's door is opened wide!

DO YOU SEE IT?!!!



May you experience a **GLORIOUS** journey to Easter!
Pastor Bill Breylinger | Lead Pastor

PURPOSE

Loving God ~ Loving People

VISION

Together we will create an atmosphere where people experience God's love.

MISSION

Motivated by God's love and fueled by His grace, whenever and wherever a hand reaches out for help, we want the hand of Jesus to be there.
For this we are responsible.

JOIN US FOR

WORSHIP
In-Person & Online

CDs Of Sermons Are
Available Upon Request

SUNDAY

**Blended
Service
9:00AM**

**Contemporary
Service
11:00AM**

Located In
The Main Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY

**The Base Children's Ministry
3:30PM-7:15PM**
Located In
The Base (Admin Bldg/Upstairs)

**The Rock Youth Ministry
5:00PM-7:15PM**
Located In
The Main Sanctuary

**Cross Talk
6:00PM**
Located In
Historic Sanctuary

Nursery

Is Available For All Services

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays @ 7:15PM

Freedom From Your Hurts, Habits, & Hang-Ups



**Celebrate
Recovery®**

A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT @ 6:00PM | LOCATED IN PORTABLE 1

A Season of Growth & Gratitude

As we reflect on the past season, we are filled with gratitude for all that God has done within our church family. This has truly been a season of growth...spiritually, relationally, and in ministry. We have seen new faces join us, faithful members step into leadership, and renewed energy in serving both our congregation and our community.

With growth comes both opportunity and responsibility. The Church Board continues to seek God's wisdom as we prayerfully guide the direction of our church. We desire to remain faithful stewards of the resources, people, and mission God has entrusted to us. We are committed to listening carefully, planning thoughtfully, and acting in ways that honor Christ and strengthen our fellowship.

We want to express heartfelt thanks to our membership for your continued support through your prayers, your services, and your generosity. Every act of kindness, every volunteer hour, and every offering makes a difference. Together, we are building more than programs; we are building a community rooted in faith, compassion, and hope.

As we look ahead, we ask for your continued partnership and prayers. May God grant us wisdom, unity, and vision for the days to come. We trust that He who began this good work among us will continue to grow and guide our church into an even brighter future.



Thank you for walking this journey with us. We are blessed by each of you.

Lisa Jarrett (President) Gary Smith (Vice President) Dorothy Howell (Secretary)
Elaine Powell Dennis Dunn Joy Brastrom Ron Hogue



Last year brought about a divine shift. God was absolutely *'doing a new thing'*. This *'new thing'* demanded that we allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to us how to approach things differently for a new season in Union's ministry. We surrendered to the process, allowed God to prune that which no longer served us, fertilized the soil of our hearts, planted seeds of faith, trust and hope, and gave birth to new ideas, strategies, relationships, partnerships, and vision.

The process revealed that it was imperative for those of us in full-time ministry to release control and be more intentional about sharing the load of our Kingdom building mission on a deeper level. This led to a stronger partnership with our incredible Board of Directors who undergirded us and helped us successfully navigate through new territory. We truly became a three-stranded cord which scripture tells us...

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

ECCLESIASTES 4:12

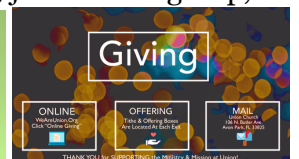
The three-stranded cord represents the staff, the Board of Directors & all of you, and the Holy Spirit...and there's nothing we can't accomplish together! Together we overcame financial challenges by following the guidance of the Holy Spirit to apply the same strategy to our fundraising. Our special Easter, 'Bridging the Gap', and Christmas offerings brought in a total of **\$150,228.00**, which led us into 2026 on a firm foundation.

This divine shift has shifted our focus from a survival mindset to a thriving mindset. We need to keep our foot on the gas and press on; fueled by the sense of revival and excitement for what's on the horizon. What we've witnessed God do in the past year is just a glimpse of what's to come. We need to continue to step out in FAITH, and as in the title of Joyce Meyer's new book...**DREAM BIG, PRAY BOLD, and LIVE BRAVE!**

On behalf of all of us here at Union, we can't thank you enough for your support and for partnering with us in our mission. As we challenge ourselves to go deeper...we challenge **YOU** as well. Get involved, join a small group, start a small group...**LET'S DO LIFE TOGETHER!**

With Sincere Gratitude,

Tracey Caraballo / Administration & Finance



UNION CHURCH MILLENNIUM SANCTUARY

2001-2026

...a celebration
special program and
festival 25 years in
the making to be
held:

March 29th, 2026



It's hard to believe, but April 1st, 2026, will mark the first service held in our main sanctuary. It was April fool's day and also the day I announced from the brand-new stage that Pam was pregnant.

So many incredible moments have happened in this building and on **March 29th**, the Creative Arts Ministry will be presenting a very special program to highlight 25 years of the 'Millennium' sanctuary, including some very special guests. Accompanying this program will be a meal and a walk-through museum displaying special artifacts of the past.

Mark your calendars now because you can't miss this special, special day!!!

THE STORY OF UNION'S CRECHE

My mom, Sujette Lanier, who was the church Secretary for 27 years, decided to purchase this as a memorial to her mother Louise Dorminey. It began with just Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus, and each year mom and dad would travel to Brooksville's Christmas shop to add another piece to the scene. On many of these occasions, Pastor Bill and Jane would accompany them.



Each Christmas, many pass through the lobby and can't help but pause for a moment to take in the beauty of the nativity scene displayed on the altar. The creche is now complete and by the way, besides the incredible detail, each piece is unbreakable.

Hello Union Family!

I have some exciting news for those of you who are hearing impaired! We have some equipment ordered that will allow those of you who need a little extra help to listen to our services using your existing Bluetooth® enabled hearing aids or Bluetooth® wireless headphones. It utilizes a new technology called Auracast™ to deliver audio signals up to 300 feet from the tech booth (essentially filling the entire Millennium Sanctuary).



There are some things that I must still set up with it once we receive the hardware, but more details on this will be coming soon. Depending on how well this works, we may even expand it to the Historic Sanctuary. Instructions on how to use this new technology will be posted publicly in the Millennium Sanctuary once it's deployed! Information on this exciting technology can be found online at <https://www.bluetooth.com/auracast> for those who want to read into this!

Recently, we added some new hardware to help make our facilities more accessible while maintaining security of our offices. We now have a video doorbell system that rings to our staff office telephones when someone comes to our main office door. Just press the doorbell chime button on the keypad, and one of us will unlock the door for you to come on in and visit us!



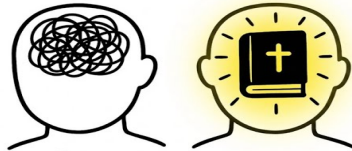
We're continuing to make changes with our technology ecosystem on our campus to better equip us for God's mission at Union Church now and for many years to come. God has been so good to us, and we trust in His provision. Anything that can be done to help bring God's word to the world, whether online or in house, our Tech Ministry will investigate and leverage.

With Love...Ryan Haynie /Production Manager



Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

REWIRE YOUR MIND



ROMANS 12:2

Welcome to the year of change. In this season of change, we are renewing the way we think, feel and live. We are **The Renew Crew!**

Each new year acts as a reset button, providing a blank slate that encourages us to let go of old habits and encourage new transformation. Transformation starts inside. It starts in the mind with the way we think, in the heart with the way we feel about what we think, and our lives with how we live this all out.

In the Base ministry, I will be teaching the kids that with the help of God and His words, we can remove our stinking thinking and replace it with His truth. We do this by memorizing scripture, actionable activities and daily prayer. We don't have to think or act the way the world does. Instead, God gives us the power to change our minds...and ultimately change our lives.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 16th-20th - VBS 9am-12pm Ages 2-12yrs
Volunteers needed!

April 4th - Easter Egg Hunt 11am-1pm



Blessings!

Fawn Waterman / Children's Minister



Most people think the holidays are over after Christmas and New Year's. But we still have...



Valentine's Day

The NFL Draft



and...



EASTER!!!

On Good Friday, God showed us how much he truly loves us.

But God demonstrated his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

God's love was shown to us (Humanity) not because we were deserving, but because of his unconditional love for us. Think about this; Christ gave up his life, knowing that some people would never reciprocate or ever appreciate His sacrifice.

Easter is a reminder of how much God truly loves us. Valentine's Day is a day to tell that special person in your life how much you love them. On Valentine's Day 2001, 26 years ago, my daughter Grace was born; and for the first time... I truly understood God's love for us, His children.

So, for me, this season is a reminder for us not to just love one special person, but that we are **ALL** special in God's eyes and we should try to love **ANYONE** and **EVERYONE** because we're all God's children.

Gatlinburg 2026

In Youth Group, it's that time of year to start signing up for camp. So, if you're a teen or you know another teen that's interested in going to camp with us this year, let us know as soon as possible, as spaces fill up fast.

Pastor Eddie Morrison / Youth Pastor



CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Church Membership

✝	Full Time Membership:	516
✝	Households Represented:	336
✝	Associate Membership:	28
✝	Households Represented:	16
✝	Total Membership	544
✝	Households Represented	352

October 30th, 2025 Baby Dedication

COMMITTING TO THE LORD

✝ Banks Mikula ✝ McCoy Mikula

In Deepest Sympathy

Our condolences go out to the following family, friends and members of:

✝ Jimmy Allen Lemay	✝ Ethel Wenger
✝ Lisa Clayton Alley	✝ Joe Hallimen
✝ Marshall Bunting	✝ Ellen Hollon
✝ Georgia Murdock	✝ Bill Yoder
✝ Sharon Riddle	✝ Bill Hood

Welcome To The Family

Please welcome our newest members:

- ◆ Roger & Theresa Brown
- ◆ Tim & Ashley Mikula
- ◆ Bill & Karen Smith

Please direct address, phone number, e-mail, or any changes to your contact information or to get involved or share a concern to Chris Hess @ (863)453-3345.

Mailing address:

106 N Butler Avenue, Avon Park, FL 33825

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Sunday School Youth Night	2 Men's Bible Study	3 Overeaters Al-a-non / AA CR Georgia Murdock Memorial	4 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	5 Tampa Bay Feed AA Mtg Bible Study Serendipity	6	7 Bill Hood Memorial AA Mtg
8 Worship Sunday School	9	10 Overeaters Al-a-non AA Mtg. CR	11 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	12 AA Bible Study Once Voice Meets	13	14 AA Mtg Happy Valentine's Day
15 Worship Sunday School Church Wide Movie Night	16 HOLIDAY	17 Overeaters Al-a-non Sr. Connection Luncheon AA Mtg. CR	18 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross-Talk Ash Wed. Service @ 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 Tampa Bay Feed AA Mtg Bible Study	20	21 AA Mtg
22 Worship / SS Union Mission Offering Union Wear	23	24 Overeaters Al-a-non AA Mtg. CR	25 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	26 AA Mtg. Bible Study Once Voice Meets	27	28 AA Mtg



- 1 Joseph Demery
- 2 Travis Dunn
- 3 Tony Gutierrez & Bill Smith
- 4 Richard Hon,
- 5 Jean McKinney & Ed River
- 8 Sharon Chilson
- 10 Gabe Navarro
- 11 Barb Snyder
- 12 Betty Morrison
- 13 Caleb Somarriba

- 14 Bonnie Ermel & Grace Westmoreland
- 16 Diane Morse
- 18 Carolyn Metternick
- 22 Evelyn Smith
- 23 Ron Harris & Marty Sauthoff
- 24 Celeste Cox & Ryleigh Douglas
- 25 Michael Chitwood & Jim Hitmar
- 26 Larisa Hodo & Corrine Hotchkiss
- 27 Suzi Hennessy



- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Gene & Sara Albritton | 15 Don & Debby Richardson |
| 2 Roger & Theresa Brown | 17 Bill & Jane Breylinger |
| 9 Don & Doris Benna | 18 Chris & Judy Williams |
| 14 Chris & Helen Bruns | 19 Walt & Lori Brown |
| Art & Sharon Holmes | |
| Tim & Gerri Stallsmith | |

Love God
Love People
UNION CHURCH


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- 1 Jane Breylinger, Isaak Myohanen,
L.C. Smith & Walt Snyder
- 2 Sky Breedlove, Denny Gay & Robert Harris
- 3 Gerry Johnson
- 4 Lori Brown, Jan Loney & Shelby Somarriba
- 5 Lucille Ferrigan
- 6 Christopher Manus
- 8 Wilma Viau
- 10 Amber Allen
- 11 Sylvia Rodriguez
- 12 Daun King, Jane Mechling & Donna Russell
- 13 Ollie Bush & Debbie Vale
- 14 Helen Bruns & Suzanne Hunnicutt
- 15 Aaron Beeching, Josiah Ibarra,
Richard Leisses, Charlie Rickard &
Dale Vredeveld
- 20 Charity Spurlock
- 21 Tiger Gullett & Mary Wolf
- 23 Betty Larimer
- 24 Dylan Wallace
- 26 Tristan Calvin, Ken Koon, Theresa Tomblin
- 27 Jacob Flowers, Trish Jaggessir &
Josue Somarriba
- 29 Jim Dingman, Lindsay Guerreo,
Kimmy Hage & Dorothy Reed
- 30 Sharon Fogle & Yvonne Welty

Happy Anniversary

- 5 Jerry & Beverly Lake
- 9 Dennis & Bev Dunn
- 12 Wally & Jan Loney
- 16 Gary & Jan Smith



March 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship / SS Youth Night Membership Sunday	2 Men's Bible Study New Member Mtg	3 Overeaters Al-a-non / AA CR	4 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	5 Tampa Bay AA/Bible Study Serendipity	6	7 AA Mtg.
8  Worship / SS SnL	9	10 Overeaters Al-a-non / AA CR	11 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	12 AA Mtg. Bible Study One Voice	13	14 AA Mtg
15 Worship Sunday School	16 V.B.S.	17 V.B.S. Overeaters Al-a-non/AA Sr. Connection CR	18 V.B.S. Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	19 V.B.S. Tampa Bay AA/Bible Study Youth Spring Break Trip	20 V.B.S.	21 AA Mtg
22 Worship/SS VBS Sunday Samaritan Touch Offering	23	24 Overeaters Al-a-non / AA CR	25 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	26 AA Mtg. Bible Study One Voice	27	28 AA Mtg.
29 Palm Sunday 25 th ANNIVERSARY Union Wear	30 HOLY WEEK	31 Overeaters Al-a-non / AA CR				



HOLY WEEK 2026

March 29th Palm Sunday / Services: 9am & 11am
April 2nd Maundy Thursday / Communion Service 7pm
April 3rd Good Friday / Service: 12 Noon
April 4th Children's Easter Egg Hunt / 11:00am-1pm
April 5th Easter Sunday Worship Services

Sunrise Service: 6:30am (In front of Historic Church)
Blended Service: 9am (Main Sanctuary)
Contemporary Service: 11am (Main Sanctuary)

April 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Tampa Bay AA Mtg./ Bible Study Maundy Thursday	3 	4 AA Mtg. Easter Egg Hunt 11-1 
5 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:30 am Worship / SS	6 HOLIDAY Men's Bible Study	7 Overeaters Al-a-non / AA CR	8 Bible Babes Children / Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	9 AA Mtg. Bible Study One Voice Serendipity	10	11 AA Mtg.
12 Worship Sunday School	13	14 Overeaters Al-a-non / AA CR	15 Bible Babes Children / Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	16 Tampa Bay AA Bible Study	17	18 AA Mtg.
19 Worship Sunday School	20	21 Overeaters Sr. Connection Luncheon Al-a-non / AA CR	22 Bible Babes Children / Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	23 AA Mtg. Bible Study One Voice	24	25 AA Mtg.
26 Worship / SS Habitat Offering Union Wear	27	28 Overeaters Al-a-non / AA CR	29 Bible Babes Children / Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	30 AA Mtg. Bible Study		



- 1 Amelia Jaques
- 2 Miguel Caban & Judy Williams
- 3 Annabelle Beeching & Paul Scruton
- 4 Mary Love-Ghetia
- 5 Raymond Medina
- 7 Edwin Rivera
- 8 Marie Resendes
- 10 Gabby Beal & Alex Degand
- 11 Kevin Brastrom
- 12 Jeff Harstine
- 18 Judy Uccello
- 20 Dorothy Howell & Dick Smitley
- 21 Sebrina Smith
- 22 Tina Cruz, Ariel Hahn, Cy Short &
Jack Solomon
- 24 Dennis Dunn & Art Holmes
- 26 Mila Goff & Rayann Gullett
- 28 Bill Krug
- 29 LeRoy Haynes
- 30 Tanah Becker, Kendra Sloan &
Bev Smitley



- 1 Chris & Lisa Short
- 12 Al & Linda Pontarelli
- 25 Kale & Linda Bradley
- 26 Jim & Trenna Harris
- 28 Allan & Pam Liskey