



## Summer Newsletter

2022

Dear Friends,

Summer is here! 92° every day, 72° nights and thunder in between. It's time to organize and plan for Gatlinburg, our weeklong summer camp on the Little Pigeon River. Tubing, worship in an outdoor pavilion, tent camping, evening worship around a campfire, cooking our own food, waterfall hikes, baptisms, and so much more.

Hundreds of teenagers have made their first-time commitment to Jesus and have been baptized there. This year will be a big financial challenge because of gas prices and food costs. We are keeping our camp scholarships at \$250, but we actually need more because of the gas. Attached is a form to fill out. Your gift can change a life and secure a teenagers' eternal destiny.

If you are out of town, mail your scholarship to:  
Union Church  
106 N Butler Ave  
Avon Park FL 33825

Please mark your donation: "Gatlinburg Youth Camp"

**Thank you and God Bless,**

**Pastor Bill (Lead Pastor)**

**Our monthly Men's Bible Study and Serendipity are cancelled for the months of June, July and August. They will resume in September.**

Pastor Aaron had a vision to redesign our Church Library to become more effective as a meeting room, library, and even more. His interior designing and ideas, along with Miss Chris' revision of the library inventory, have made a huge difference. A big THANK YOU to Gary Smith, Steve Becker, John VanDuesen, Chris Hess, Tracey Caraballo, and Stacey Dutcher for all of their help in making Pastor Aaron's vision become a reality. It looks amazing and it's not even done yet!!!

## Myrtle Beach

October 13-19, 2022

Beach Cove Resort | 6 Nights  
Large Bedroom | Full Bath |  
Balcony with Ocean View

3 Shows:

- Alabama Theater
- Legends
- Carolina Opry

4 Dinners:

- Chuck's Steakhouse
- Chesapeake House
- Joe's Barr & Grill
- California Dreaming

We travel in church vans and Pastor Bill will lead a daily morning Bible Study (with DVD). The video will feature Mark Batterson's book: "ALL IN." "If Jesus is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord of all."

These 5 Star Accommodations, 3 shows, and 4 dinners cost:  
\$1,170 Per Couple  
\$581 Per Person with Roommate  
\$897 Per Person (Alone)

There will be a PRE-TRIP MEETING. If you're interested in attending, please contact the church office. Connie Evers will get back to you on the details.



Part II

What's in your Church?  
I'm sorry, I didn't know  
I'm Bob and I live  
here.

Wait wait  
wait! You said  
you live here?

Yeah, I've lived  
here as long as I can  
remember. I did my  
first shed here.

I gotta admit,  
it's comfortable  
here.

Now what  
makes you say  
that kind of  
nonsense?

All I'm saying is you shouldn't  
live under a church since  
you're a snake. And snakes  
like you represent evil  
in the Bible.

But... You're  
a snake.

Yeah,  
so?

You live under  
my church. Don't you know  
your species represents evil?

Now as the dove priest  
of this church, I order  
you to flee!

Wow. Don't you  
have a lot to  
learn in your  
life!

Huh? What  
are you talking  
about, you  
little trouble  
maker?

Oh please, that was a plague  
like the blood water and the  
death angle, that doesn't  
change anything. There  
were even snakes that bit  
people and kill some.  
There was no good  
snake back then.

I might look sneaky and mischievous,  
but I'm still one of God's creatures.  
Before the devil disguised himself  
as a serpent, God made snakes, which  
are animals, like you. And all animals  
were created by God, just like  
humans. Every living thing  
on this planet was made  
by our heavenly Father.

Actually, there was one. There was a  
bronze snake on a pole and whenever  
people looked at it, they were healed  
and saved. Now you can say something  
different like it represents Jesus  
on the cross taking in evil,  
but I see it differently.  
It may have been a snake,  
but it played an important  
role during  
that time.

So? That still  
doesn't prove that  
you're good. You're  
still dangerous  
to everyone.

So that goes to show you that  
not all snakes are evil and  
all are created by God, just like  
the rest of all living things  
on this planet. Nothing  
was created by the  
devil. Only God.

And since snakes  
represent evil and the  
devil, you shouldn't live here!

Actually, I'm non-venomous, and let  
me tell you something else. God  
actually used our species during  
Moses' time. God actually gave  
Moses the ability to turn his  
staff into a snake  
every time he dropped  
it.

Here,  
somebody borrow  
me!

And you know for a dove  
priest yourself, you still  
got a lot to learn from  
the Bible. Don't judge a  
book by its cover and  
dig a little deeper  
into the  
five story  
clude.

As summer approaches and time brings in vacations and relaxation for many, I can't help but reflect on the great blessings that the Creative Arts Ministry has experienced this season. Though a challenge at times with Covid, we managed to do some really special things this year and this summer the plans are underway to make next season even bigger!!

I still can't get over the program: "...with a message". It was unique in every way and was pulled off with such professionalism and class. Not only a program done well, but a program that reignited the arts from a long absence of any special productions.

Many ideas are in the works for more special large-scale productions for November 2022 and February 2023. Along with everything else the arts ministry provides, it's going to be an exciting adventure!

Let me add this as well...

I have observed recently that there are a lot of folks attending our church that have wonderful gifts in the arts but are keeping them silent. You must not!!!! We need you and God needs you to use those gifts to praise Him with glory! Be a part of the choir! Be a part of the worship orchestra! Get involved in sparking an interest in drama! And dance for the Lord!! So easy to do. Just find me and let's discuss your possibilities!

I love serving at Union and I love being creative for our God! I thank you for your continued support and I pray God's blessings for you always!

Pastor Jim

Creative Arts Pastor





As we prepare to enter the second half of 2022, let me just take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the Ministry and Mission here at Union. We were blessed to take in **\$35,529** for our Easter Match.

What God has orchestrated in the past two years is truly amazing and nothing short of a miracle. He continues to keep us on the debt reduction path.

So far this year, we have reduced the debt by **\$17,201.75**.

That puts our current total church debt at **\$263,921.62**.

The bank debt portion of that total is down from \$339,000.00 to **\$68,471.62** in just over one year!!! By the amazing grace of God and His hand over the stewardship of our finances...this twenty-five year loan term can potentially be satisfied in less than three years! The accelerated payoff schedule is saving Union thousands of dollars in interest and paves the way for the vision for our future.

I truly believe that because of our faithfulness to being the hands and feet of Jesus and the depth of the grace we show to those He puts in our path...we have favor with God. I look forward to keeping you up to date on the exciting progress we continue to make.

*“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” ~ Luke 6:38*

With Gratitude & Love,

Tracey Caraballo (Church Treasurer)



Summer fun is right around the corner for our Children's Ministry.  
**SUMMER PROGRAM: June 13<sup>th</sup> through July 21<sup>st</sup>**

9:00AM – 4:30PM | For Children Ages 5 to 12

Bible Instruction | Trips | Science | Arts & Crafts | Cooking |  
Community Service | Library Time | Outdoor Fun

This year's theme is EMOTIONS using Emojis

The Bible teaches us that our emotions are a gift from God and that He has a purpose for all of them. Childhood is a time to play and explore with happiness and joy. The Base Summer Program is a place where we can create such an environment.

Genesis 1. 🙌 saw the ☀️ and it was 👍

*Blessings – Miss Fawn Waterman (Children's Minister)*

# Union Church Tech Ministry

Hello Union Family!

This is my first article for our Quarterly Newsletter. I will be writing articles for the “Tech Corner” of the Newsletter, providing you with the most up-to-date information about needs for this department as well as things we have accomplished with your support.

First, I want to thank all of our tech volunteers that we have had over the years as well as past Production Managers before me for laying the groundwork for us to keep building onto, so that we may continue to glorify our God and do good works in His name. I look forward to continuing to work with each and every one of you. With that being said, we are always in need for more volunteers for the tech team. My long-term vision is to have enough volunteers to have a rotating schedule that would allow for volunteers to work one week and have the next week off, so they may have the time to take care of themselves and be able to worship with the congregation without worrying about their duties. If anyone is interested in joining, you can call the church or catch me at both Sunday services, Wednesday night Youth Group, or CrossTalk on Thursday Nights. I would be glad to discuss our needs in person and see how you can help further our ministry.

Second, I'd like to discuss some of the things we've been able to accomplish in the short time since I've come aboard. We have been working on unifying our computer systems to enable us to be more effective servants as well as being able to communicate more effectively. We are also in the process of changing copier vendors to save the church a significant amount of money in the long term in print costs, as we wish to be good stewards with the resources God and you have provided us with. I've also been in the process of evaluating our current computer network systems and finding where we can maximize our campus wireless network coverage, making it more accessible to our guests, missions we support on campus, and our administration. I was recently able to remove an old directed antenna link between the Green Room and the main office that plagued us in our early days of streaming our services, as we now have wired connections that are reliable between the Main Sanctuary and the main office. I also installed a new Wi-Fi Access Point from Ubiquiti Networks in the Green Room, allowing Pastor Jim to have high speed wireless internet access. I'm also in the process of reorganizing the tech office and studio to make it more usable as well as to be more flexible for various uses for our church's media production. I've been cleaning up the tech booth as well as eliminating unnecessary cables from the booth to make our live audio and video production systems easier to service and maintain.

Third, I'd like to discuss my vision and long-term evolution for this department. Our network infrastructure which includes our cabling, Wi-Fi nodes, switches, and routers is in desperate need of an overhaul. Currently we have a bunch of Wi-Fi routers that were reconfigured as access points all over the campus, and each one is configured completely different (Wi-Fi Network names, Passwords, Bandwidth Management [QoS], and firewalls). Also, there are areas between nodes that don't even have access to the network. My goal is to overhaul the entire network system with Ubiquiti UniFi equipment. This would allow a simplified network management solution for the church to be implemented that includes Access Point management, an integrated firewall, and built-in fiber-optic patches for our fiber runs to the Main Sanctuary, The Treasure Chest, as well as our future Multi-Purpose Building / Youth Building. This infrastructure update would also support a future goal to update our analog business phone system to a VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) digital phone system, further unifying our communications systems on the campus. The immediate benefit of the upgrade would be better access to the internet for those who visit the campus without having to change from one access point to another, as it would be an automatic seamless process that the end user would never even notice once they have access to the guest network. And it would be even more seamless for the administration as they can also traverse the entire campus without dropping the connection at all. Unfortunately, this is going to be a very expensive overhaul being approximately \$4,000 to complete. This can be done in bits and pieces over time to gradually improve our network reliability and to save on upfront costs. We at least need to get the main gateway router from Ubiquiti (UniFi Dream Machine Pro) to get the ball rolling on these upgrades, and that is \$379 plus shipping.

*Continued on next page...*

We are also in need of a teleprompter device to assist with our media production. What you don't see in the 411's is the numerous takes and cuts we make to make the finished product. To facilitate the ease of recording the 411, a teleprompter will assist in making sure that we hit all topics needed for each recording. This would sit on our existing tripod and my iPad would attach to it to provide the text. The camera would sit behind the glass of the teleprompter, allowing our presenters to look directly at the camera while viewing the talking points. The cost of this device at the time of this article (June 2022) is \$169 on Amazon.

Another need for the tech department is a new digital camera for recording the 411's. Our old camera, a Nikon D5200, died last year due to a malfunction with the SD card slot, which is where the memory card for the camera goes into. Due to the age of the camera series, a newer model would be more ideal. The camera I am looking to replace this with is a Nikon Z50 Mirrorless camera, as it's tech specs and lack of internal moving parts make it an excellent replacement, and it will work with our existing lens which that alone has a high value as it is a very versatile lens. The current cost for this camera from B&H Photo and Video is \$896.95, although it's not immediately available for purchase through them. They do have the best price for it, however. It will enhance our production quality significantly as it will record video up to 4K resolution, photos up to 20.9 Megapixels, and a 209 point autofocus system with eye detection. At this present time, I'm using my personal DSLR camera to record the 411's until we can manage to acquire a new camera.

While these costs are quite high, they are necessary to help us further our outreach and ministry to our community and beyond. A vision of mine for this department is to be able to make short movies and films that will change lives. This camera equipment will further support that vision and provide the viewers of our online live streams with quality content as well as those attending our services in person. When our homeless community comes to visit our campus, they will have the means to communicate to necessary resources and family using our enhanced data network on the campus, while preserving enough bandwidth for our live streams to function. This is a huge ask of me, especially being the new Production Manager. But I know that when I trust God to provide, He always has provided for me and will continue to provide for me and this amazing ministry that I'm a part of.

With love,



Ryan J. Haynie (Production Manager)

### **Worship Service Times** (In-Person & Online)

#### **Sunday Worship**

Traditional Service: 9AM

Contemporary Service: 11AM

(Located In The Main Sanctuary)

#### **Wednesday Worship**

The BASE Children's Ministry:

3:30PM – 7:15PM

(Located In The Base / Upstairs)

The ROCK Youth Ministry:

5:00PM – 7:15PM

(Located In The Main Sanctuary)

#### **Thursday Worship**

Cross Talk: 6:00PM

(Located In The Main Sanctuary)

Choir Rehearsal: 7:15PM

(Located In The Choir Room)

**(Nursery Is Available For All Services)**

## **Stay Connected With Us**

**Church Website**  
[weareunion.org](http://weareunion.org)

**Facebook**

**UnionChurchAP (Like, Share, & Follow)**

**YouTube Channel**

**<https://m.youtube.com/c/UnionChurchAP/>**

CDs Of Sermons Are Available Upon Request

### **Give To Support The Ministry & Mission At Union**

#### **In Person**

Tithes & Offering Boxes (Exits In Main Sanctuary)

#### **Mail In**

Union Church

(106 N Butler Ave Avon Park FL 33825)

#### **Online**

- 1) GO to [weareunion.org](http://weareunion.org)
- 2) SCROLL down on the homepage until you see "Donate Now"
- 3) CLICK "Donate"  
(Option to give a tithe/offering)
- 4) FILL OUT "Faithstreet" page

# Secretary's Report

- Total Full Time Membership: 529
- Households Represented: 343
- Total Associate Membership: 39
- Households Represented: 22
- Total Membership: 568
- Total Households Represented: 365

(This Report is as of 05/23/2022)

## We Welcome Our Newest Members

(Joined on March 27, 2022)

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| ☺ Don Benna         | ☺ Kenny Haney    |
| ☺ Doris Benna       | ☺ Michele Haney  |
| ☺ Ana Sue Corneluis | ☺ Bonnie Montage |
| ☺ Bob Holden        | ☺ Beverly Ruble  |
| ☺ Debbie Holden     | ☺ Bob Smith      |

## In Deepest Sympathy

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

- ✝ Jan Wengert (March 5, 2022)
- ✝ John Holz (April 17, 2022)
- ✝ Chad Woodard (April 23, 2022)
- ✝ Bill Lafran (May 5, 2022)
- ✝ Ernie Fiedler (May 17, 2022)

Please direct any and all address, phone number, email, or any other changes to your contact info to the attention of

Miss Chris Hess. Church #: (863) 453-3345

To get involved or for all other worship experience info, including but not limited to: Bible Studies, Small Groups, Celebrate Recovery, etc. please contact the Church Office

## Gatlinburg Youth Summer Camp Scholarship Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

☀ \$250 for 2022 Gatlinburg Youth Summer Camp ☀

I enclosed a donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ YOUTH for 2022 Gatlinburg Youth Summer Camp

Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me." (Mark 9:36-37)

Please fill out this form and send in with your donation.  
Thank you for your investment in our youth!  
We love and appreciate you!

2022 Gatlinburg Youth Summer Camp

July 15<sup>th</sup> – July 23<sup>rd</sup>



## Children's Summer Scholarship Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

☀ \$100 for 2022 Children's Ministry Scholarship ☀

I enclosed a donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ CHILD(ren) for 2022 Children's Summer Program

Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me." (Mark 9:36-37)

Please fill out this form and send in with your donation.  
Thank you for your investment in our children! We love and appreciate you!

Contact Miss Fawn if you would like to volunteer  
863-453-3345

Summer Program Dates & Time:  
Monday – Thursday | 9:00AM – 4:30PM  
(Starting Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>)

