



the Newsletter



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

Dear Friends and Members,

Christmas is a season, not just a day, to celebrate that **God is with you!** Sometimes you may not feel like God is with you. Life can be difficult! Our emotions are susceptible to all kinds of influence. Some have lost a spouse or a child or a close friend this year, and you're just not feeling the joy and hope of Christmas.

Our emotional state is affected by memories, sickness, pain, tension and fear. God came to earth at Christmas to remind each of us that **God is with you!** No matter where you are, what you're going through or what you face. That's the truth whether you feel it or not!

One of Jesus' names is **"Immanuel"**. It means **God Is With Us!** No matter what's going on in your life, you are not alone. That's the message of Christmas! You may feel abandoned in life...by a spouse, a friend, your parent or children. Someone you needed died and you're lonely.

But Christmas says, **"You are not alone!"** Even those you have loved, who have left you for heaven and eternal life are with you in your memories, photos, and every Christmas carol and worship service brings them close to you. Enjoy that now! I don't know where you are as you read this right now. But I know this...You are not alone! God cares! **GOD IS WITH YOU!**

God bless you!

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

Nursery

Is Available For All Services

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

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 Message from Your Board of Directors

As we enter this beautiful season of Advent and Christmas, our hearts are filled with gratitude for all that God has done among us this year. From answered prayers to unexpected blessings, from moments of healing to the quiet assurance of His presence-truly...

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." ~ Psalm 126:3

Christmas is a season of giving because it began with the greatest gift of all: God's gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. In that spirit, we invite you to join us in offering a **'Gift of Gratitude'** to the church.

Your gift, no matter its size, becomes a testament to your thankfulness. It is a way of saying, "Thank You, Lord, for your faithfulness," and of sharing that faithfulness. It helps sustain and advance the work and ministry of our church - supporting children and youth programs, outreach to our community, creative arts, and the worship experiences that continue to bring hope and light, drawing us closer to God and one another.

As you reflect on your blessings this Christmas, consider making a **'Gift of Gratitude'** - a special expression of gratitude to God and to our church community for all the ways God's love has been revealed in and through us. Because Union Church is more than a building. It is a place where people experience God's love, find community, and are sent out to serve. Together, our gratitude can shine as brightly as the star that led the shepherds and wise men to Jesus. Let's celebrate this holy season with hearts overflowing in **GRATITUDE** and generosity.

With Joy & Gratitude,



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

Thankful grateful blessed

As we continue to embrace the new path the Lord has set us on, there is so much confirmation and evidence that God is ordering our steps and that He is blessing the work of our hands. We're beginning to see a harvest of seeds we have planted. As we surrender all that we do to the leading of the Holy Spirit, we have been given fresh perspectives, a renewed sense of purpose, new ideas, and new Kingdom builders to help us carry out our Kingdom assignment.

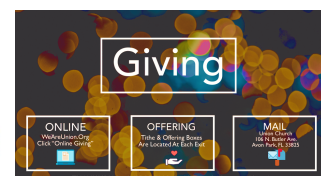
We are so **THANKFUL** for the leadership and support of our Board of Directors and for this faithful congregation who never fails to respond to the needs of our church. God directed us in a new way this year and gave us a new blueprint to our financial stewardship throughout the year. Our **'Bridging the Gap'** campaign was a huge success, bringing in a total of **\$30,118**. It did exactly what it was intended to do, and substantially eased the financial burden that we face between the summer and fall months when we lose about two thirds of our congregation.

We are so **GRATEFUL** that we entered this year debt free and that God has brought us through, what typically is our toughest time of the year unscathed. Although we know that He is Jehovah Jireh, His provision does not cease to amaze us and leave us in awe. We're thankful for what He's done through you and thanking Him in advance for what our Christmas offering will bring. He is setting the stage for much more and giving us glimpses into what is to come. Through our commitment to being good stewards, we are demonstrating that He can trust us with more and we believe that our territory will be expanding.

We are truly **BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE** that you choose to partner with us in our mission to **LOVE GOD & LOVE PEOPLE**. Your faithful and unwavering support keeps our Kingdom building going & growing. 2025 has been a year where we've witnessed God doing a new thing and we perceive the new life springing forth. With 2026 on the horizon, we are excited about what God has in store and new ways that He will equip us spiritually, financially, and in every way necessary to continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Wishing You All A Blessed Beyond Measure Holiday Season,

Tracey Caraballo



Let the redeemed of the Lord



**TELL THEIR
STORY**

Psalm 107:2

Storytellers

An Evening of Testimony, Prayer & PRAISE

Everyone has a story to tell. A testimony of how God has worked in our lives. When we share our stories...we testify to God's faithfulness, give others courage to share their story, offer hope, and draw souls to Christ. Join us on...

Wednesday, November 19th @6pm

for a special evening of testimony, prayer and praise. Invite your family, friends and neighbors for what we know is going to be a Spirit filled time of worship that you're not going to want to miss!

Jim Lanier and the Creative Arts at Union presents:

MIRACLES and ANGEL HAIR

An original musical experience of hope and promise

*Featuring the classic sounds of
Christmas mixed with stories of
miracles and love*

**December 14th, 2025
Union Church, Avon Park**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 14TH @ 6:30PM

This original production will stir your soul and focus on the miracles of this wonderful season!

From classic Christmas songs to melodies not usually associated with this time of year, each segment will glorify the living God of love and celebrate Jesus' birth as the Savior through our moments of joy as well as the trials of life.



Our Base Bible Detectives are on a mission to learn about the different names of God. We learn more about God when we learn about his different names and titles. Each name in the Old Testament held significance as to a certain aspect of His character. They were ways in which His identity and roles are explained. Therefore, God reveals not only who He is by His many names, but who He is to us as we learn about His expected behavior. These names were revealed in the Old Testament but are still relevant today. God's word is clear about how we are to revere His name with the utmost respect and honor. The only way for us to get to live with our Father in heaven again, is by knowing God and Jesus and having a real relationship with them. God is so important that we should boast in His name and never take His name in vain.

As we go through the weeks and learn more of the well-known names of God, we will keep Psalm 9:10 in mind

"And those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who search for you".

The Bible tells us that God knows our names. He knows all about us and still loves us very much. Now it's our turn. When we learn more about our Gracious, Mighty and Loving God, we will learn to love Him even more. His names show the believers how powerful, creative and merciful He is.

Thank you to all who took part in our 'Trunk or Treat' event. The children had an amazing time, and you are appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 12th - Base Family Night dinner 5:30 to 7pm.
Families bring a dish to share family style eating.

December 17th - Base pajama party in Whoville.
Bring a treat to share. Bring your secret Santa gifts.

{No winter program this year!}

Holiday Blessings!

Fawn Waterman / Children's Minister



In this Holiday Edition newsletter, I want to take the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the amazing adult leaders, and the church family that continuously support our Youth ministry here at Union. The heartwarming stories of the incredible lives you've helped transform will bring you to tears! Your united efforts as a church has made a tremendous impact on thousands of teenagers over the years.

Our teenagers have faced some serious circumstances that a child should never have to endure, like homelessness, food insecurity, and domestic challenges. Your unwavering kindness and timeless devotion has been the magic key that helps them unlock their true potential and empowers them to rise up and shine bright.

In a season of thanksgiving, I just want to say,

"Thank You!"

For not only making a difference...but being the difference. Together, we're not just dreaming of a safe place where teenagers can come and be loved and accepted; we're building it!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 12th – Scavenger Hunt

December 10th – Outdoor Movie Night

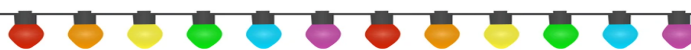
December 17th – Christmas Caroling

January 14th – Capture the Flag

Wishing You All an Amazing Holiday Season,

Pastor Eddie / Youth Pastor

Hello Union Family!



I'm not sure if you noticed any of these changes recently at the 11am service, but we've been working on transforming the entire worship experience from the ground up...from the music to our worship team and so much more! We're being incredibly intentional about trying to create a Spirit filled atmosphere where everyone can have a personal encounter with God. We're utilizing our new light system to an even greater capacity. We are also leveraging capabilities in our ProPresenter system and our state-of-the-art network systems to add high definition moving visual media to our screens, along with transforming the visuals seen on the live streams for our online viewers. There's a lot still moving in the background, but I'm especially excited for whatever ideas and plans the Holy Spirit gives me to help each and every one of you to be able to have that personal encounter with God when we come together every week to worship.

I am always looking for new volunteers for my Tech Team. Even if you don't necessarily know anything about technology, these systems are easy to teach others about regardless of age or experience level. Or even if you just want to see what it's like behind the scenes and what goes into putting our services together, I'd love to welcome anyone to come hang out with us during one of our services or during our praise team rehearsals as we use our gifts to glorify God.

God Bless & Happy Holidays!

Ryan Haynie / Production / IT Manager





CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Church Membership

✝	Full Time Membership:	516
✝	Households Represented:	336
✝	Associate Membership:	29
✝	Households Represented:	17
✝	Total Membership	545
✝	Households Represented	353

In Deepest Sympathy

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

✝ Dennis Elder

Welcome To The Family

Please welcome our newest members:

- ◆ Aaron & Annabell Beeching
- ◆ Bruce Checcia ◆ Corrine Hotchkiss
- ◆ Sally Benigni ◆ Howard & Sharon Kesselring
- ◆ Maribeth Demery ◆ Jennifer Pollard
- ◆ Flora Rivera

Our Baptisms/Re-dedications on October 12th

✝ Gabriella Beall
✝ Crystal Beall
✝ Dash Breedlove
✝ Jim Harris
✝ Patricia King
✝ Sue Ellen Koons
✝ Crystal Medina



✝ Jazmine Medina
✝ Raymond Medina
✝ Leslie Morrison
✝ Willie Nelson
✝ Jennifer Pollard
✝ Donna Russell
✝ Mike Russell

Please direct all contact information changes to Chris Hess @ (863)453-3345 or 106 N Butler Avenue, Avon Park, FL 33825

A special "Thank You" to everyone who helped with this Christmas season. It truly is wonderful to have such a loving and supportive church family!

~Chris Hess



November 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 AA Mtg Dennis Elder Memorial
3 Communion Worship Services Sunday School	3 Men's Bible Study New Member Gathering	4 Al-a-non AA Mtg. CR	5 Tampa Bay Feed Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk / Choir	6 Tampa Bay Feed AA Mtg Bible Study Serendipity	7	8 AA Mtg
9 Worship Sunday School	10	11 Veteran's Day Al-a-non AA & CR	12 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk / Choir	13 AA Bible Study Once Voice Meets	14	15 AA Mtg
16 Worship Sunday School	17	18 Al-a-non AA & CR	19 Bible Babes Praise & Prayer Service 6 pm	20 Tampa Bay Feed AA Mtg Bible Study	21	22 AA Mtg
23 Worship/SS Sarmatian Touch Offering	24	25 Al-a-non AA CR	26 Cross Talk	27 AA Mtg Happy Thanksgiving! 	28 Holiday	29 AA Mtg
30 Worship / SS Union Wear 1 st Sunday of Advent						



7	Trey & Mandy Jaques	18	Pete & Sue Reiffer
	Dave & Jan Strasser	28	David & Mary Wolf
9	Gene & Pearl Parsell	28	Alex & Vivana Degand
11	Milton & Sue Distin	29	Paul & Brenda Scruton
17	Gary & Linda Stokes	30	Don & Patti Arebaugh



- 1 Dash Breedlove
- 3 Paul Warnecke & Johnathan Wilson
- 4 Kale Bradley, Colton Dunn & Pam Puterbaugh
- 5 Capone Hodo
- 7 Christian Caraballo, Kathy Kerner & Khrizneil Medina
- 8 Janice Hinkle & Linda Pontarelli
- 9 Addison Jamison
- 10 Sue Thompson
- 12 Christie Frenche' & Amanda Merredith
- 13 Don Chamberlain, Rodrigo Hipohito & Flora Rivera
- 14 Keith Bentley & Amanada Elder
- 15 David Nixon
- 17 Reina Diaz
- 18 Connie Nadrizny, Dalton Petrey & Kamella Rogers
- 19 Helen Hodo, Linda Rogers & Kathy Rose
- 20 Tracey Caraballo
- 21 Elijah Degand & Robert Douglas,
- 22 Beverly Barnhart, Richard House, Noelle Palacios & Bernie Weithorn
- 24 Laylah Garcia, Ralph Puterbaugh & Lisa Short
- 25 Carol Dingmn, Bill, Jartett, Eddie Morrison & Sandy Sexton
- 26 Chris Bruns, & Goldie Sprandel
- 27 Victoria Lockhart & Susan Seitz
- 28 Uly Gomes & Chris Williams
- 30 Shirley Harris & Helen Welch



- 1 Greg Ghetia, Sydney Lanier, Kiera Murray
Nathan Springsteen
- 3 Ted Best, Sue Johnson, Alida Rodriquez
Brandson Swafford
- 4 Carmen Haynes & Beth Oliver
- 5 Beth Jahna
- 7 Judi Subat
- 9 Adele Knott & Allen Liskey
- 10 Deb Holden
- 11 Roger Brown & Christopher Hernandez
- 12 Courtney Jones & Pat Northrup
- 14 Don Arebaugh
- 15 Linda Johnson
- 16 Katheryn Trujillo
- 18 Miranda Bernhard & Alexis Owens
- 19 Nancy Egley & Caitlin Rose
- 20 Fred Vandermeer
- 21 Christopher Pringel & Mark Schrader
- 22 Landon Evinicky
- 23 Don Hickman
- 24 Ed Bartow, Doug Byrum & Rose Ogle
- 25 Brad Hughes & John VanDuesen
- 26 Hannah Fisher
- 27 Penny Anderson
- 28 Keith Hunnicutt, Indria Smith &
Shemkia Swafford
- 29 Ronnie Green & Alicia Sullivan
- 30 Jerry Lake & Pearl Parcell
- 31 Norm Herron, Susan Hodo, Mark MacNeil
& Brenda Scruton

December 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Bible Study Christmas Parade	2 Al-a-non AA CR	3 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk /Choir	4 Tampa Bay AA/Bible Study Serendipity	5	6 AA Mtg.
7 Communion Worship / SS 2nd Sunday of Advent	8	9 Al-a-non AA. CR	10 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	11 AA Mtg. Bible Study One Voice	12 Jingle Bell Run	13 AA Mtg. Choir sings @ SDA Christmas
14 Worship / SS 3rd Sunday of Advent Creative Arts' Program- 7 pm	15	16 Al-a-non AA CR	17 Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	18 Tampa Bay AA Bible Study	19	20 AA Mtg.
21 Worship / SS 4th Sunday of Advent	22	23 Al-a-non AA CR	24 Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 7 pm	25 Christmas Day	26 Holiday	27 AA Mtg.
28 Worship / SS Union Wear Habitat Offering	29*	30* Al-a-non AA/ CR	30* New Years Eve	*Offices will be closed the week after Christmas		



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|----|------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 5 | Bill and Debbie Vale | 19 | Paul & Linda Roger |
| 7 | Craig & Kathy Kerner | 23 | Ron & Judy Booth |
| 10 | Jim & Jane Mechling | 28 | Kevin & Joy Brastrom |
| 12 | Orrin & Barbara Schaal | 29 | Joseph & Anneliese Vincent |
| 30 | Lee & Goldie Sprandel | | |

January 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Weds.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1* Tampa Bay AA Mtg. Bible Study Serendipity	2	3 AA Mtg.
4 Communion Worship Sunday School	5 Men's Bible Study	6 Over Eaters Anonymous Al-a-non/AA CR	7 Bible Babes Children / Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	8 AA Mtg. Bible Study	9	10 Trip AA Mtg.
11 Worship Sunday School	12	13 OEA Al-a-non AA Mtg CR	14 Bible Babes Children / Youth Cross Talk	Tampa Bay AA No Bible Study	16	17 Ernie Hasse in Concert AA Mtg.
18 Worship / SS	19 HOLIDAY Martin Luther King Day	20 OEA Al-a-non AA Mtg. CR	21 Bible Babes Children / Youth Cross Talk	22 AA Mtg. Bible Study	23	24 AA Mtg.
25 Union Wear Worship / SS Union Mission Offering	26	27 OEA Al-a-non AA CR	28 Bible Babes Children / Youth Cross Talk Choir Rehearsal	39 AA Mtg. Bible Study	30	31



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|----|----------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Ralph & Pam Puterbaugh | 13 | Rodey & Lisa Davis |
| 5 | Darren & Delores Breedlove | 25 | D.L. & Charity Spurlock |
| 7 | Barry & Linda Twibell | 26 | Christopher & Valerie Pingle |
| 12 | Ron & Denise Hogue | 29 | Jerry & Dorothy Neidermeier |



- 1 Tamara Haynie & Gwen Shady
- 2 Steve Becker, Brenda Blanton & Pete Reiffer
- 3 Wayne Benson
Emilicno Garcia & Cam Robinson
- 4 Nytwon Carney-Bell
- 6 Carol Loos, Bob Morrison & Nannette Sphaler
- 7 Adrian Miranda & Bill Vale
- 8 Ed Wright
- 9 Brandy Giddens
- 10 Richard Carden & Joan Solomon
- 11 Carrie Raker & Desiree Vincent
- 13 Jane Roush
- 14 Clint Hunnicutt, Lauren Le'on,
Chelesa Lyons & Christal Snider
- 16 Jay Francis & Mary Ann Wright
- 19 Michele Archer
- 20 Carol Gillings, Kenny Haney & Bob Smith
- 23 Bev Hickman, Gene Parsell & Licy Rosario-Pagan
- 24 Halle Robinson
- 25 Brody Alley & Fawn Waterman
- 26 Don Benna & Valeri Pingel
- 27 Gloria Clow & Lane Linsinbigler
- 28 Jann Telling
- 29 Doris Benna, Theresa Brown,
Lisa Davis, Bobby Morrison & Dorothy Neidermeier
- 30 Sandy Blauis & Rodney Davis
- 31 Aleianne Donald & Pam Lanier