

the Newsletter

hello ♥ FALL

2026

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.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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 (Upstairs)

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

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

CHOIR REHEARSAL
Wednesdays At 7:15PM

Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.
John 4:35




Union Church

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

Dear Members and Friends,

August is on the doorstep as I write to you. I pray you are "cooler" than we are in central Florida. We pray that you are enjoying good health, family and friends wherever you are. Thank you for your faithful financial support of Union Church.

We have two more months of summer left, but your generous support has been a miracle. Every child in Pastor Fawn's 5-week summer program had a scholarship and all 50 at Gatlinburg Camp had a scholarship as well.

We have an amazing new carpet and makeover in the Main Sanctuary and so much more! **THANK YOU** for your continuing prayer, and financial support. So many changed lives.

I know you are tuning into our worship on YouTube or Facebook. We can't wait to see you again. Drop us a letter and let us know a blessing you've experienced this summer and when we will see you again!

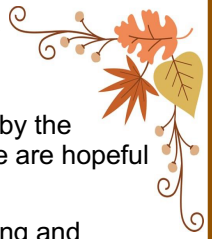
And thank you for loving the Lord and praying for us all summer. We feel your love.

Hope to see you soon and may God bless you,

Pastor Bill



A New Season of Ministry: Moving Forward with Our Youth Building Project



Dear Church Family,

We are excited to share a wonderful step of faith and ministry with you. After prayerful discussion and a vote by the church Board, we have agreed to begin the process of building a new youth building for our congregation. We are hopeful to begin construction this fall and look forward to seeing this vision become a reality.

The new building will be a 50' x 100' energy efficient facility with 16-foot walls, designed to provide a welcoming and functional space for our youth and future ministries. The building will include an office for Pastor Eddie, a small kitchen, and a conference area that will allow us to continue growing in fellowship, teaching, and outreach.

This project is made possible because of the incredible stewardship and generosity of our church family. We are so thankful for the continued support you have shown, especially for our Youth programs this summer. Because of your faithfulness, every one of our youth – from our youngest children to our teenagers – was able to receive scholarships for camp and summer programs. Your generosity has made a lasting impact on their lives and helped create meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth and connection.

As we move forward with the building project, we are committed to being wise stewards of the resources God has provided. Our plan is to pay for each section of the building as it is completed, beginning with the placement of the slab. We will continue to move forward step by step, trusting God's guidance and the continued support of our church family.

We are grateful for the unity, generosity and faithfulness of this congregation. We look forward with excitement to what God will do through this new space and the many lives that will be touched through its ministry. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and continued commitment to our church and our youth.

With Grateful hearts,



The Church Board

Lisa Jarrett (President) Gary Smith (Vice President) Dorothy Howell (Secretary)

Elaine Powell (Director) Dennis Dunn (Director) Joy Brastrom (Director) Ron Hogue (Director)

RIPE *For the Harvest*



As we look back on all that God has done this summer, we can't help but to be left in awe with a heightened sense of GRATITUDE, and an excitement for what's next. Our Children & Youth ministries were, once again, fully funded for all of their summer activities, God's week to week provision during our most financially challenging months of the year has been amazing, and what a blessing it was to be able to refresh our Millennium sanctuary in its 25th anniversary year by the much-needed carpet replacement.

GOD IS SOOOOO GOOD!!!

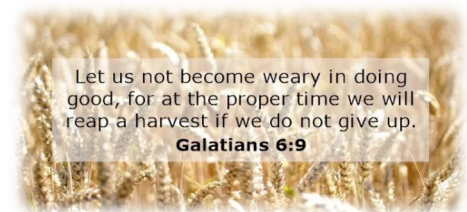
As we prepare to enter the Fall season, there's a confidence and a boldness in our step. The evidence is all around that God's not even close to being done with this 'new thing' He's doing here at Union! He's continuing to shift our position and perspective, and we are committed to staying surrendered to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We're kicking off the second in our threefold fundraising campaigns. The launch of this year's Bridging the Gap campaign finds Union on a much stronger financial foundation than we have been in the past several years. PRAISE GOD!!! It's now not about us being in survival mode. God has set us on THRIVING mode! We have been good and faithful stewards with little, and the Lord is trusting us with more. We're believing for an overflow that is going to enable us to build for the future, with steps ordered by the Lord.

Thank you all so much for being the instruments and vessels God uses to help us carry out Union's Kingdom assignment. It is because of your faithful support that this year's Bridging the Gap funds will not only subsidize our smaller summertime offerings and higher overhead costs, but they will add to our storehouse for the great plans God has for us in this new season He's been leading us through. The seeds that have been planted over the years are truly coming into a season of HARVEST!

With Sincere Gratitude,

Tracey Caraballo
Administration & Finance



Well, it's been a nice summer for the Creative Arts Ministry, which included a fun little 'choir camp' where we explored space, creation, water, and even the 250th birthday of our nation. But now...it's time to get prepared for one of the most exciting seasons ever at Union!

Beginning with resuming the beautiful, Spirit filled, 'Prayer & Praise' service to be held on **Wednesday, August 5th** in the main sanctuary. This is a time to be grateful, to surrender, and to hear God's promises for us all. The service will combine all of the Wednesday ministries into one service beginning @ 6:00pm.

The following week will be the kick-off to the **Voices of Truth Choir!!!** There are great plans for this choir this year and I can't wait to get started!!! With a lot of new music ranging from the traditional to the contemporary praise, and featuring stirring selections from *Les Misérables* to *GODSPELL*, as well as the brilliant works of Steven Sondheim. This will be one of this choir's greatest and most Spirit filled seasons ever!



I repeat this quite often, that **EVERYONE** is invited to be a part of this choir. It's more than just singing. We are a family and a wonderful and very special small group. Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, August 12th** @ 7:15pm.

Another opportunity in the Arts is our nice little worship orchestra. Take out that dusty old instrument of yours and contact David Flowers and come play with us.

Our praise group will continue to bring us into God's Word each Sunday at the 11:00am service, and NEW this year will be the addition of a 'Drama' club  headed up by Joy Brastrom!

So many dreams and ideas are in the works that are yet to be mentioned at this time, so there are always opportunities for all ages to get involved in the Creative Arts Ministry.

God Bless,
Jim
(Creative Arts Pastor)



Hello Union Family!

If you haven't noticed recently, we now have more options for Assisted Listening. We now have a WIFI Assisted Listening system that runs over our guest WIFI systems. Unfortunately, it currently is restricted to Android based phones and devices only, due to system limitations on Apple products set by Apple themselves. But when you connect to our guest network (**Union Guest**) and scan the QR code shown on the Assisted Listening advertisements, it allows you to listen to the audio stream using your own Bluetooth headphones or Bluetooth streaming audio capable hearing aids.

We are looking for more volunteers for our tech team on Sunday mornings, as we are looking to build a team for running our live streams. No experience is necessary. And yes, while I can run everything in the tech booth by automations, it will make things a lot more interactive for viewers at home as well as allow us to do more in house. If anyone is interested, please stop by and see me before or after service on Sunday or even stop by the office during the week.

I thank God in advance for the amazing things He's going to do for us here at Union, and I'm looking forward to seeing this vision come to fruition.

With love,
Ryan Haynie
Production / IT Manager





I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

John 8:12

Darkness represents fear, sin and being lost. Just as a light illuminates any dark place, Jesus acts as our light to guide our choices, keep us safe, and give us hope. For the new school year, we will be learning that...



What a great topic to teach for back to school. He is our light in dark places. With all of the demands and challenges that come with going back to school, the kids will learn we have a light that shines brighter than any problem in or out of school. His light is the spiritual truth which dispels the darkness of our sins. His light offers hope and direction to anyone willing to follow Him. Just as a blind man needs physical light to see, we all need Jesus to see the right way to live. We will learn to be Jesus' mirror, reflecting His love into the world. May we all **SHINE BRIGHT FOR JESUS!**

Back to School Survival Kit

- Glue stick** – Stay connected to Jesus daily thru prayer and His word.
- Crayons** – Brighten your classroom by sharing the joy and love of Jesus with everyone you meet.
- Pencil** – Let God write a beautiful story in your life.
- Eraser** – Remember that salvation through Jesus erases our sins.
- Highlighter** – Jesus highlights the good in us, which points to God's love.
- Notebook** – Journal your blessings and prayers. Gratitude changes everything!

Thank you again for helping to provide another amazing summer with your prayers and donations. The kids and I are greatly appreciative.

Here are some upcoming events for the next few months:

Wednesday, August 5th - Back to school supply giveaway
Wednesday, October 28th - Harvest Trunk-or-Treat

Blessings,
Fawn Waterman (Children's Minister)



I can't believe Gatlinburg is over and the new school year is starting. All those hours of planning and paperwork, and the excitement waiting to load all of our teenagers up and head to that spiritual campground that we call Gatlinburg. It felt like it took an eternity to get here and in just a few moments, it was over. But that short week that we had with our kids was absolutely AMAZING! Don't get me wrong...we had our challenges. From storms the first three days there, to kids just simply being out of their element. But by the last day and time to pack up, no one wanted to leave.

There's something special and spiritual about being in the mountains and disconnected from the world. From sipping your coffee in the mornings, watching as the sunlight pierces through a thick green canopy of 100-year-old trees, to the crackle of the campfire as embers rise towards an open canopy of mountain stars. And to fall asleep to the natural white noise of Little Pigeon River is absolutely amazing. But what was more amazing was to watch a group of teenagers and adults turn into a family. We are all forged together from this amazing spiritual journey God took us on.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and the Jahna family for making this trip possible.



The Rock Youth Ministry has been growing exponentially.

But...

WHEN WE BUILD IT...MORE WILL COME!!!

We are so blessed and excited that our new Youth building is finally on the way! Thanks in advance for your support in making this dream a reality!

Pastor Eddie Morrison



CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Church Membership

✝	Full-time Membership:	519
✝	Households Represented:	338
✝	Associate Membership:	26
✝	Households Represented:	16
✝	Total Membership	545
✝	Households Represented	354

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

To get involved with one of our ministries or share a concern please let us know!!

Mailing address:
106 N Butler Avenue, Avon Park, FL

Senior Connection Myrtle Beach Trip

Miss Connie has reserved 22 rooms for the Myrtle Beach trip this **October 15th thru 21st**.

Prices are **\$625** per person for a double room and **\$975** for a single person per room.

For more information call Connie Evers at (863) 443-0181 and leave a message.

Deadline for sign-up is September 1st, 2026

OPPORTUNITIES + PLUS CHANCE = Equals = "OPPOR-CHANCITIES" (per Pastor Bill)

If you love Christmas, I mean REALLY LOVE CHRISTMAS, than you may be interested in a once in a lifetime "oppor-chancity" – to be a part of a revitalization plan for our Christmas statues!!!

We have 36 iron statues that need a permanent face lift! This is an "oppor-chancity" you'll definitely want to be a part of. Each one of our statues have been carefully measured and color coordinated for upcoming LED rope lights. Each one will need be to be lovingly un-lit of the old individual bulb combinations –un-rusted and painted, pampered and prepared for the new LED rope light to be attached. There are so many facets to this adventure and it's going to take team work to make this dream come to fruition. S-o-o-o!! – Elves prepare yourselves for a fun and exciting pre-season undertaking. Contact Chris Hess for your enlistment papers!!! A-n-d... if you'd care to donate to the Christmas decorating fund... we certainly won't refuse it. 😊

We've only 3 months 19 days to accomplish this once in a lifetime "oppor-chancity".



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!



Tuesdays @12pm
In Portable #1



Tuesdays, Thursdays
& Saturdays @12pm
In Church Library

Freedom From Your Hurts, Habits, & Hang-Ups



Celebrate Recovery
A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

Tuesdays @6pm
in Portable #1



Tuesdays @10:30am
in Portable #1



Saturdays @7pm
in Church Library

AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4 Drama Club	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

August 2nd Communion Sunday
August 4th Drama Class begins!
August 5th Prayer & Praise Service
August 12th Choir Rehearsals resume
August 23rd Special Offering Sunday



August 30th Union Wear Sunday

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 SC Lunch	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

September 3rd Serendipity Group
September 6th Communion Sunday
September 7th Labor Day (Closed)
September 8th Myrtle Beach Trip Mtg.
September 22nd Sr. Connection Luncheon
September 27th Special Offering Sunday



& Union Wear Sunday

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 SC LUNCH	28	29	30	31

October 1st Serendipity Group
October 4th Communion Sunday
October 15th-21st Myrtle Beach Trip
October 25th Special Offering Sunday



& Union Wear Sunday

October 27th Sr. Connection Luncheon

Happy Birthday

August

- 2 Akyan Rosario
- 3 Michelle Haney, John Mason,
Marsha May & Javarious Roberts
- 4 Walt Brown
- 5 Laura Anthony, Kioma Garvey,
Imy Heidloff, Marilyn Redmon,
Kaiden Snider & Jessie Snowden
- 8 Joy Brastrom, Darren Breedlove,
Peyton Hodo & Carolyn Winne
- 9 Caleb Hodo & Eugene Septer
- 10 Marc Caraballo, Carl Cipolone,
Nancy Evans & Mike Wallace
- 12 Henderson Bennett, Vivina Degand,
Don Egley & Dennis Tondee
- 13 Kenneth Batz, Ava Stricklin &
David Wolf
- 15 Darion Hinson & Elizabeth Navarro
- 16 Naomi House
- 17 Mary Meyers
- 18 Kaylee West
- 19 Adriana Jahna & Gary Stokes
- 21 Elijah Torres
- 22 Joe Coomes, Irene Godfrey &
Jen Morrison
- 23 Ardean Thornton
- 24 David Hanan, & Antonio Ibarra
- 27 Margaret Doyle & Debby Richardson
- 28 Judy Booth, Susan Cook,
Howard Kesselring, Sharon Kesserling,
Cesar Le'on & Carolina Somarriba
- 29 Flavio Guerrero
- 30 Mike Russell

September

- 1 Susan Campbell & Syler Morrison
- 2 Sally Bender & Isaac Rosario-Ibarra
- 3 Shirle Eaton, Sara Miles & Jeremy Vincent
- 4 Connie Herron
- 5 Michael Breer, Hope Clark & Deanna Lewis
- 6 David Pope, Lavelle Swafford &
Jamie Tillis
- 7 Alivia Hodo, Nevaeh Kidd &
Cheryl McLaughlin
- 8 Linda Bradley, Demetrius Godfrey &
Pebbles Hodo
- 9 Aaliyah and Haleigh Barber & Eli Calvin
- 10 Michael Morse, & Lily Rogers
- 11 Jane Weeks
- 12 Katie Ashbaugh, Sally Bowens,
Sandy Hicks, Prince Hodo, Fred Meyers &
Savannah Navarro
- 14 Anthony Manus
- 15 Sharon Holmes & Karen Smith
- 16 Susanne Root, Chloe Sanders &
Spirit Simmons
- 17 Holli Myohanen & Paul Rogers
- 19 Nadine Gilmore
- 20 Angel Navarro
- 21 Milton Distin
- 22 Sonni Audia & Bonnie Harris
- 23 Tony Tillis & Elaine Wiener
- 24 Rory Rose
- 25 Kordell Alexander & Maribeth Demery
- 26 Sally Brenigni, Marlene Delgado,
Marsha Francis, Chris Hess,
Bonnie Schmidt, Sharon Seymour &
Gary Smith
- 28 Sue Distin, Marvin Haynes, Paisley Lane,
Cliff Springsteen & D.L. Spurlock
- 30 Joseph "JJ" Hodo

OCTOBER

- 1 Shirley Dias & Caleb Flowers
- 2 Teriyon Brown & Lee Sprandel
- 3 Anacely Martin
- 4 Alexia Segura
- 5 Logan Cerami
- 6 Bill Strickler & Bailey Strickler
- 7 Bruce Checra
- 8 Rebecca Bennett & Gayle Homrich
- 11 Jim Hage & Rachel Thomas
- 12 Barb Bounting, Wally Loney & John Sim
- 13 Alexander Diaz & Ruth Scott
- 15 Michelle Koon & Lizette Rivera
- 16 Joyce Cipolone
- 17 Banks Mikula
- 18 Ginger Bentley & Laci Burnett,
- 19 Trena Harris
- 20 Zoe Fernandez & Max Gullet
- 22 Linda Haven
- 24 Tim Mikula
- 25 Shelby Dressel & Dave Strasser
- 26 Nikki Cruz & Jennifer Pollard
- 28 Harold Johnson
- 30 Andrew Sharpe
- 31 Stacey Dutcher & Bob Hayward



happy anniversary



August

- 2 Don & Sharon Seymour
- 9 Don & Nancy Egley
Keith & Suzi Hunnicut
- 10 Mike & Sandy Blasius
Dennis & Brenda Johnson
- 11 Dean & Jean Bittinger
Don & Bev Hickman
- 14 Freddie & Cathy Jo Jahna
Josue & Shelby Somarriba
- 17 Marvin & Carmen Haynes
- 18 Albert & Beth Jahna
- 19 Harold & Joan Johnson
- 20 Bob & Suzi Brenton
- 21 Kenny & Michelle Haney
- 28 Bill & Lisa Jarrett
- 31 Brian & Betty Larimer

September

- 2 Jim & Beverly Barnhart
Edward & Bonnie Schmidt
- 4 Larry & Lucille Ferrigan
- 12 Ronnie & Jill Green
Don & Cathy Ragan
- 30 Ryan & Tamara Haynie

OCTOBER

- 4 Richard & Naomi House
- 8 James & Donna Serwas
- 11 Robert & Shirley Harris
- 15 Wayne & Joan Benson
- 17 Michael & Mandy Flowers
- 22 Tony Gutierrez & Mary Ralston
- 26 Bob & Evelyn Smith
- 28 Ron & Michele Archer
- 31 Carl & Joyce Cipolone