

SPRING 2024

# the Newsletter

HAPPY EASTER!

## WORDS FROM YOUR LEAD PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Can you believe it? We have entered our Lenten season heading toward Easter. Six weeks to ponder the extravagant love of God, the willingness of Jesus to endure the penalty of my sins, and the wonderful promises of God about heaven and eternal life.

Traditionally, Lent is a time of self-denial and sacrifice for God's work on this earth. A season of generosity for God's ongoing work. Once again, we have an opportunity to deny ourselves and give a little more to our Lenten – EASTER MATCH.

This offering enables us to keep going all summer long when our congregation shrinks to 1/3 of our winter size, and our giving also dives. We do not have an annual pledge drive. We live by faith, trusting God and you for our ability to continue to serve our community.

Your sacrifice will give us the assurance that we can make it through the summer. We have until Easter to make our sacrificial gift. Many of you will be going north for the summer. You can watch our services live on our Church website: [weareunion.org](http://weareunion.org) or on our Facebook page: UnionChurchAP.

Everything you do and give will enable us to continue to be the *"hands of Jesus,"* to save the lost, and meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of the people God is entrusting to us.

If you have any questions, our Church Treasurer, Tracey or our Executive Pastor, Aaron will be glad to talk to you. And I am always excited to share with you our love and vision about our mission.

*Please mark your donation "Easter Match"  
and/or use the envelope included.*

**With All My Love**  
**Pastor Bill Breylinger (Lead Pastor)**

## Holy Week Schedule



**March  
28**

Maundy Thursday  
With Communion  
6:00PM

**March  
29**

Good Friday  
12:00PM

**March  
30**

Children Easter Egg Hunt  
11:00AM - 1:00PM

**March  
31**

Easter Sunday Worship  
Blended 9:00AM  
Contemporary 11:00AM

**Join Us This Easter  
HE IS RISEN!**

*Nursery will be available for all Holy Week services.*

**Union  
Church**

*"Loving God - Loving People"*  
[www.weareunion.org](http://www.weareunion.org)

**CIRCUS**

**2024 Vacation Bible School**

**The Greatest Showman**

*Come One Come All!*

Jesus Shows Us True Greatness

**UNION CHURCH**

[weareunion.org](http://weareunion.org)

**(863) 453-3345**

Ages: 2-12 Years Old

May 28 - May 31  
9AM - 12:30PM

**CIRCUS TICKET**  
FOOD

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Saturday, March 30  
11:00AM - 1:00PM

106 N Butler Ave  
Avon Park FL 33825

**WE NEED CANDY DONATIONS**

- Games
- Music
- Face Painting
- Worship
- Bring Your Easter Basket

To Volunteer Contact: (863) 453-3345  
Miss Fawn, Ms. Tracey, or Miss Chris

TO SERVE  
VOLUNTEER  
DONATE  
OR  
SIGN-UP  
CHILDREN  
PLEASE  
CONTACT  
EITHER:  
MISS FAWN  
MS. TRACEY  
MISS CHRIS



"Through Jesus therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruits of our lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."  
- Hebrews 13:15-16

*"Walking With Jesus"*

**The BASE**  
Kid's Summer Program

June 3rd - 27th

Monday - Thursday | 9AM - 4:30PM

Ages: 1st - 5th Grade

Parent Meeting  
May 22nd | 6PM  
BASE Classroom

Scholarships Available

Bible Teaching  
Art & Science  
Field Trips  
Volunteering  
Snack Time

When we recognize that God is continuously working in our lives, we want and need to praise him every minute, every hour, every day, and every way. During this season of Lent, we are learning what it means to have a heart like God. Children will learn to praise God through worship and love. We are by nature selfish, yet with God's love, we learn to have a heart like His. The bible tells us to love like He loved. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

"We love because He first loved us." - 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

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





I shall start out with a big praise shout to Miss Sydney Lanier who amazed our church and community with her afternoon of Autism awareness. The program featured a look at her journey of the past 22 years on the spectrum through words, music, and testimony. What made this program extra special was the fact that many from the community came out to support. Our Sheriff, our School Board Superintendent, our City Development Manager, among many others. The event was followed by an amazing dinner prepared by Chef Jacob and his volunteers.

This was truly an outstanding and very informative afternoon and I thank the many from Union that attended with their support! I cannot say enough about the family I call Union...you are all precious and so loved!



Pastor Jim Lanier  
Creative Arts Pastor



Summer Camps Are Around The Corner!  
For more info or to sign up, please see  
Miss Chris or myself!

FAMILY: that word means different things for different people. I was blessed growing up; I had two amazing parents that were invested in us kids. My mother was a beautician, and my father could build or fix anything. He owned a drywall and plaster business. Growing up, I never had to pay or worry about haircuts, and I always had a sense of peace, knowing that I could just call my father to come and fix what was broken or not working. When we said "YES" to Jesus, we were adopted into God's eternal family as his children (John 1:12). Being God's children means we get unlimited, constant access to God's presence, love, and authority. And the great news – we can have peace, knowing that if something is broken or needing to be fixed in our lives, we can just call on our Heavenly Father. Like Pastor Bill said this past Sunday at the 11 AM service: at the moment of our adoption, our old identities no longer matter. Every unkind name we were given, every mistake we've made, every hurt we've experienced or caused – it's all erased. Our identity, security, and future are now rooted in the God who loves us and died for us. If you belong to Jesus, you are not alone. You are known by the Creator of the universe who calls you his child, knows you by name, and loves you unconditionally. We have a lot of kids in our Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry that don't always feel loved at home. I am blessed to be a part of a church family that loves these kids unconditionally as Christ loves us.

**God Bless You! Pastor Eddie Morrison (Youth Pastor)**

Hello Union Family!

**WOW OH WOW OH WOW!!!!!!** The generosity of each and every one of you here...I'm lost for words every time I think of what God has done through all of you as His vessels. All I can say is, **THANK YOU ALL!** None of the things that I've been able to get done could have been done without everyone's collective support.

I have even more excellent news to report to you about the lighting project. The company that we have contracted to complete the light system overhaul has us scheduled to be done in time for service on Palm Sunday (Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>). They have already been ordering all the hardware and parts needed to complete the installation ahead of time, and the install will be performed from Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. I look forward to being able to fully reveal all parts of the stage (especially for those who watch us live) and showing how I can use this new system to invite an atmosphere of worship and praise on a whole new level.

We were also able to complete an expansion to our Wi-Fi network out to our portables and the garage. This will enable us to provide a stable connection to the internet for our groups that meet out in Portable 1 and for larger community events held over on that part of the campus.

In addition, we have been doing some work with our Servant Keeper Membership Database; expanding on functionality that hasn't been fully leveraged, such as an online accessible Member Directory (for those registered with us only), and easier means for our members to update their information online. More information will become available as we roll out these features and functions.

Also, we are going to be introducing a new way to connect with us! We have created an easy access link to information about Union Church with LinkTree! It works like this: There is a scannable QR barcode that will be attached to this article, along with upcoming media that we release. Use your camera app on your modern smart device (Android or Apple – Smartphones or Tablets) and it will highlight the barcode. You can then tap on the link that is provided and it will connect you into LinkTree, which will have several fast access links to our Social Media (Facebook and Instagram), YouTube Streams (view livestream and watch messages), our Church Website, and our FaithStreet Online Giving portal. If you have any questions on how to use this, feel free to contact me. This is pretty simple once you see it used once. So, if you have anyone you want to share about our ministries or give them an easy way to connect with us, you can show the QR code to your friends and family and they can scan it for all the info they need!

Again, I want to thank every one of you for contributing to these needed projects as they couldn't have been completed without your support. I also want to thank each and every one of my tech volunteers and our staff members who help support me with being able to keep our operations running smoothly. I truly am excited for what God has in store for us in 2024 and look forward to seeing what He has to reveal to us.

With Love,



Ryan Haynie  
Production / IT Manager



**Union Church**  
*"Loving God - Loving People"*

[www.weareunion.org](http://www.weareunion.org)

SCAN ME



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

USE PHONE  
OR  
SMART DEVICE



## **FRESH WIND**

As Winter comes to an end and Spring is on the horizon, I look back in awe and gratitude of all God has done in and through Union in the last few months. His provision has exceeded our expectations and has made way for yet another divine shift in the energy here. I felt this way a few years ago when I witnessed how God brought us through the pandemic, accelerated our ability to reduce our debt, and made us a stronger vessel for His Kingdom.

With the new life that Spring brings, I feel a fresh wind circulating here at Union. There's an excitement that comes from seeing God's plan for us unfold. As we remain committed stewards of His financial provision, we're closing in on our debt, which now stands at **\$95,550**. We are hopeful that this year will be the year that we will be able to say, "It is finished!" This fresh wind gives way to new hope for the perfect plans and purpose God has in store for us. It gives way to a fresh perspective of our vision for the future. A future where we are no longer burdened by debt and free to invest even more in Union's Kingdom building dreams.

We prayed bold prayers and believed for God's blessing over our fundraising efforts for our Christmas Match and our stage lighting project. He used all of you in a mighty way; exceeding the goals we set for each and proving that He is more than able to do far more than we can ask, think, or imagine. Our Christmas Match brought in **\$82,172**, which helped us to pay down our debt, subsidize our weekly offerings, and enter the new year with all bills paid in full. You then came through when the call was put out for an expensive necessary stage lighting project, exceeding the goal by \$1,630. And now we're boldly trusting God and our faithful congregation for another miracle as we prepare for our Easter Match. These funds not only help us to reduce the debt, they also help us get through the summer months when our Snowbirds go back North, and the weekly offerings drop significantly. Last year's Easter Match brought in \$50,080 and we believe God will, once again, show up and show out!

This year is off to an amazing start, and we thank you for all you have done to help bring about this fresh wind. We also thank you in advance for the ways you will be used in this new season. You are a blessing to Union and may God bless you all beyond measure.

*With Sincere Gratitude, Tracey Caraballo (Church Treasurer)*



***God is able to do far more  
than we could ever ask for or  
imagine. He does everything  
by his power that is working in  
us. Give him glory in the  
church and in Christ Jesus.  
Ephesians 3:20-21***

## Secretary's Report

- Total Full Time Membership: 505
  - Households Represented: 326
  - Total Associate Membership: 38
  - Households Represented: 21
  - Total Membership: 543
  - Total Households Represented: 347
- (This Report is as of 02/26/2024)*

### *In Deepest Sympathy*

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

- † *Vickie Leslie (December 7, 2023)*
- † *Bunny Faas (January 10, 2024)*
- † *Ralph Scharff (January 20, 2024)*
- † *Ozzie Viau (January 24, 2024)*
- † *Patsy Crane (February 20, 2024)*

*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.*

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

**In His Service,  
Chris Hess (Church Secretary)**

## 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

### Purpose Statement

**Loving God ~ Loving People**

### Vision Statement

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

### Mission Statement

**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.**

WEAREUNION.ORG (863) 453-3345

JOIN US FOR

# Bible

WITH PASTOR AARON

THE 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
6PM | PORTABLE #1

NURSERY, CHILDREN & YOUTH WORSHIP AVAILABLE DURING THIS TIME  
UNION CHURCH | 106 N BUTLER AVE AVON PARK FL 33825

# Giving

**ONLINE**  
WeAreUnion.Org  
Click "Online Giving"

**OFFERING**  
Tithe & Offering Boxes  
Are Located At Each Exit

**MAIL**  
Union Church  
106 N. Butler Ave.  
Avon Park, FL 33825

THANK YOU for SUPPORTING the Ministry & Mission at Union!

### Pray With Us!

**Pray for God's continual guidance as we follow His vision that He sets out for us – constantly expanding our outreach and ministry potential.**

**Pray for exponential giving to God's Ministries & Missions here at Union.**

**Pray for our Staff: for fresh ideas and wholeness – body, mind, and soul.**

**Pray for each other: for overwhelming love, grace-filled hearts, and devotion to God's Kingdom.**