

the Newsletter

Summer 2025



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

A Letter from Your Lead Pastor

Dear Members & Friends,

Easter is in the rear-view mirror and here comes summer. So many of you head for your northern homes and cooler temperatures. Even those of us who are Florida residents plan vacation time north of the Mason-Dixon line. We hope you will follow us on Facebook and our You-Tube channel.

We need your help in the summer. Our electric bills go up and our giving decreases by 50%. I want to challenge you to see us as a "mission". First, pray for us every day. Secondly, sacrifice by putting money aside once a month, May through September, and send a **"Gratitude Offering"** with a note sharing what you've been up to and how we can pray for you. I personally love pictures also.

Watch our services every week and I promise to speak God's favor and promises over your life. We need **"Good News"** and occasionally healing or recovery or deliverance from grief. We will pray for you and think about you until we are together again.

We wish you joy and peace, health and a life full of precious memories!

God bless you,

Pastor Bill

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



The summer has been a season that we both welcomed and dreaded here at Union over the years. We look forward to the ministry opportunities that come with Vacation Bible School, The Base Summer Program, and the annual Youth Ministry Gatlinburg camping trip; all of which you make possible. On the other side of the coin, we dread losing two thirds of our congregation, lower offerings, and higher utility bills. We dread the 'survival mode' mentality that takes up residence in our thoughts. But we have a choice! We have the power and authority to choose our mindset instead of allowing the enemy to choose for us.

We entered 2025 **DEBT FREE!!!** We are walking in the blessing we prayed for! We can't thank God enough for where He has brought us from, and we're excited about where He's leading us. We're standing on the word that God is doing a new thing. That He's leading us out of the wilderness and into a new season. But the path ahead may not unfold the way we think it should or want it to. The transition can be tricky. With new destinations come new detours, and new heights bring new hurdles. But it's all about perspective, as Pastor Bill has been exploring in his sermon series, *"What Do You See?"* Not all progress is visible, but we trust that God is working.

What our mind is focused on will be magnified, so we must choose wisely and make sure that our perspective does not become the mountain. This summer we're choosing a mindset of **PEACE** over panic... **TRUST** over troubleshooting... **FAITH** over fear... **WORSHIP** over worry...and **THRIVING** over surviving. With that being said, on behalf of all of us here at Union, thank you for your support of this year's Easter fundraiser, which provides the resources in our storehouse to help sustain us through the summer months. So far, we have been blessed with **\$32,770**. I say, "so far", because we don't determine when God is finished. We've set a goal for \$100,000...but God's ways are higher than our ways, He's still working, and He is Jehovah Jireh. We know what He did with 5 loaves and 2 fish! So, this summer...we invite you to join us in choosing a mindset of **EXPECTATION & MIRACLES!!!**

You will keep in perfect PEACE those whose minds are steadfast, because they TRUST in you. ~Isaiah 26:3

*With Sincere Gratitude,
Tracey Caraballo*



Hello Union Family!

Union Tech Ministry needs **YOUR HELP!** We need additional volunteers to help in the tech booth on Sunday mornings at both the 9AM and the 11AM services! No experience is necessary, and all necessary training will be provided. The positions that we need help with are with operating our camera, soundboard, media presentation system, and our lights. Anyone interested in helping with this need can visit me in the tech booth on Sunday morning before or after service, or during my office hours Monday through Thursday, 11AM to 4PM. Any assistance that can be given is greatly appreciated!

God Bless,

Ryan Haynie
Production / IT Manager



Creative ARTS ministries

Greetings to all who love to worship our God and King!! You are the very ones that are going to **LOVE** a couple of opportunities presented by the Creative Arts Ministry this Summer!

First of all, as the Voices of Truth Choir begins its summer hiatus, the Wednesday evening rehearsal time slot will continue with an exciting program which will be entitled:

'THE SUMMER ARTS REMIX'

This is a great time for people to gather to explore intimately the power and awesomeness of the Creative Arts and get close in our relationship with Christ. Some project examples will be:

A Psalm Remix

We will choose a Psalm, read it through. Then rewrite it in our own language. We can put in situations from our own life, use our own phrases, and relate it to modern day faith.

A Worship Walk

We will go for a walk and have our eyes and ears open. We will ask God to show us - things to praise him for, things to ask him to change, and things that challenge the way we live now.

A Time to Receive God's Love

We put on some quiet instrumental music, turn down the lights and dedicate some time to simply resting in God's love.

Food and Worship

We will have a simple but substantial meal based around bread and wine (or grape juice). We will use it as an opportunity to reflect or talk about the Last Supper, the cross of Christ, other symbolic references to bread and wine, and what these mean for us today.

An Artsy Reflection

We will use art materials or rip pictures out of magazines to express to God how we feel right now. Make a picture or collage and offer it to him. Alternatively, paint or collage our prayers for other people, or our reflections on a Bible passage.

*These are only a **very few** examples that will happen over a three-month period. Each class will be 45 minutes on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 in the choir room beginning **May 21st**.*



AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Another wonderful event that is scheduled for **July 30th**, is our **PRAYER AND PRAISE** service where we all come together for an evening of great worship, testimony, and prayer. Every time we do this, we are all revived in our spirits to march forward with confidence and assurance of God's love and promises for our lives. You **DO NOT** want to miss this night of great music, words, and fellowship!!

Myrtle Beach Trip 2025



- **October 16th-22nd**
- **5-star accommodations at Beach Cove Resort**
- **6 Nights / 3 Shows / 4 Dinners**
- **We travel in church vans and Pastor Bill & Pastor Jim lead daily devotionals**
- **\$975.00 Single Occupancy**
- **\$1,250.00 Per Couple**
- **\$730.00 (PP) Triple Occupancy**
- **\$625.00 (PP) / 2 Bedroom Suite**

**Call Connie Evers #(863)443-0181 or the Church Office #(863)453-3345
if you are interested in going on this trip with Pastor Bill & Friends.
There are a limited number of rooms, so be sure to sign up early!**



I can't believe we are here already! This year is flying by so fast! The school year is almost over and before you know it...summertime will be here. I want to say, "Thank You" to all who gave donations or bought Easter baskets for the children in our church. I try to make sure each child who comes on Easter Sunday can receive a basket, even if they don't attend my ministry. There is nothing that warms the heart more than to see a smile on a child's face. Thank you for your continuous blessings.

I am preparing for Vacation Bible School 2025. This year's theme is **Camp Gatlinburg: Where Jesus Is Our Path to Peace**. VBS will be held Tuesday, May 27th - Friday, May 30th from 9am to 12pm. We're accepting children ages 2-12 years. The summer program will begin the following week and will run June 3rd-June 26th (Monday-Thursday 9am to 4:15pm). I accept children ages 5.5-12yrs. First consideration will be given to those children who regularly attend our program. Our theme this summer will be, **"What A Mess!": How God Can Deliver Us Out of Any Situation**. The program offers Bible Study, Reading, Arts and Crafts, Science, Cooking and Nutrition and Community Service. We also go to the library and park, and don't forget our weekly trips sponsored by church scholarships. We are so blessed to have a church who gives our kids the opportunity to be in a safe and loving environment while learning and experiencing the love of God.

*Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established.
Proverbs 16:3*

Contact Miss Fawn if you would like to volunteer for
Vacation Bible School
(863)453-3345



I'm so excited!!! In May we will be opening 'The Cave', our new Youth lounge for the teenagers, equipped with flatscreen TVs, Xbox game systems, a snack bar, and space where the kids can come and do their homework after school. Any and all teenagers are welcomed. I want to say a special "Thank You" to Ms. Tracey for helping to create this new space for our teens to call their own.

If you feel God is leading you to get involved, with our amazing Youth ministry, we are in need of volunteers to help pick up teenagers after school and drop them off for Youth group on Wednesday evenings. Please feel free to contact Ms. Chris or myself.

God Bless,

Pastor Eddie

COMING SOON!!!



2025 Scholarships for VBS & Summer Camps

We are inviting you to invest in a young life. Our Children & Youth Ministries are gearing up for the summer and your help will truly be a blessing! Please fill out the form below and send it in with your donation.

Thank you for your investment in our children & youth!
We love and appreciate you!

- ✦ VBS/Base Summer Camp Scholarship: \$100.00
- ✦ Youth/Gatlinburg Camp Scholarship \$250.00



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone # _____

Check All That Apply:

- ☐ I enclosed a donation for \$ _____ to help sponsor _____ child/children for VBS & Summer Camp 2025.
- ☐ I enclosed a donation for \$ _____ to help sponsor _____ Youth for Gatlinburg Summer Camp 2025.

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Church Membership

✚	Full Time Membership:	510
✚	Households Represented:	333
✚	Associate Membership:	31
✚	Households Represented:	18
✚	Total Membership	541
✚	Households Represented	351

In Deepest Sympathy

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

- ✚ **Byron Stitzer**
- ✚ **Sue Kitchens**

Welcome

Please meet our newest church members:

- ◆ Marsha Baras
- ◆ John "Jay" Francis
- ◆ Ray Hicks

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

Welcome Union's 2025 Board of Directors:

Lisa Jarrett Gary Smith Tracey Caraballo Dorothy Howell Elaine Powell
Dennis Dunn Ron Hogue Joy Brastrom

✚ **Rhianna Albeas**
 ✚ **Jose' Avila**
 ✚ **Reina Diaz**
 ✚ **Curtis Jones**



J.J. Stone ✚
Aubrianna Wallace ✚
Kaylee West ✚
Devin Williams ✚

✚ **Skyler Morrison**

✚ **Isaak Myohanen**

✚ **Licy Rosario-Pagan**

May 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Feeding Tampa Bay AA Mtg Bible Study	2	3 AA Mtg
4 Communion Worship Services Sunday School	5 Men's Bible Study	6 Al-a-non AA Mtg. CR	7 Gents & Bible Babes Children & Youth Cross Talk & Choir Gatlinburg Parent Mtg.	8 AA Mtg Bible Study Serendipity	9	10 AA Mtg
11 Worship Sunday School Mother's Day	12	13 Al-a-non AA CR	14 Gents & Babes Children & Youth Cross Talk & Choir	15 Feeding Tampa Bay AA /Bible Study Senior Dinner	16	17 AA Mtg
18 Worship Sunday School Graduation Sunday	19	20 Al-a-non AA CR	21 Gents & Babes Children & Youth Cross Talk VBS Volunteer Mtg. Arts Remix	22 AA Mtg Bible Study Dental Bus	23	24 AA Mtg
25 Worship/ SS Hands for Homeless Offering Union Wear	26 Holiday - Memorial Day	27 Al-a-non AA / CR Pastor Bill's Birthday VBS	28 Gents & Babes Children Youth Cross Talk VBS Arts Remix	29 AA Mtg Bible Study VBS	30 VBS	31 AA Mtg



- 1 Autumn Haynie, Joe May & Sue Reiffer
- 2 Dixie Taylor
- 3 Ellen Myers & Richard Suess
- 4 Mark Cox & Beverly Mayo
- 6 Roberta Flowers
- 7 Rod Lovette, Ken Petery & Don Seymour
- 8 Lance Depender, Jelyssa Ibarra, & Tyra West
- 9 Freddie Jahna
- 10 Eric Folsom
- 12 Lewis Gunter & Pam Hamill
- 13 Ron Hogue & Burt Schultz
- 14 Patti Joshnick & Paisley Meredith
- 16 Martin Rivera
- 17 Shay Alley-Bonk, Alexander Espada, Sandra Ripson, Jeff Welty & Bill Yoder
- 18 Ellen Krupa
- 19 Denise Hogue & Tony Jenkins
- 23 Elaine Carden
- 25 Jean Bittinger, Jill Green, Michelle Sludder & Linda Stokes
- 26 Xiomara Diaz & Beverly Ruble
- 27 Jamie Brewer, Bill Breylinger & Mandy Waldrup
- 28 Jake Dressel, Ellyn Drummond, Beverly Lake, Jack Mann & Sherry Septer
- 29 Connie Evers
- 30 Mike Blasius & Anaccli Sacia
- 31 Sara Albritton & Logan Dressel



- 14 Tom & Mindy Ashbaugh
- 25 David & Dani Flowers
- 28 Bud & Diane Furr
- 31 Jim & Pam Lanier





- 1 Dennis Elder & Janet Miler
- 2 Betty Barberee & Don Fogle
- 3 Destanie Carpenter & James Wright
- 5 Gene Albritton & Don Ragan
- 6 Kye Rivero-Owens, Betty Scott & Cindy Shuee
- 7 Suzie Breton & Ellen Hollon
- 8 Maggie Divis & Brian Larimer
- 9 Ryan Haynie
- 10 Eli Guerrero
- 11 Eli Gullett, Jim Mechling, Linda Miebach & Jan Smith
- 12 Mayzie Berlanga
- 14 Camden Alley, Al Pontarelli & Anneliese Vincent
- 15 Katelyn Fiedler, Masco Lewis & Beverly Schultz
- 16 Lisa Clayton Alley, Tiggy Merancin & Nancy Witte
- 17 Daisha Smith
- 18 Landon Burnett, Cindy Gross, Jim Lanier, Sandra Prince & Jan Stevens
- 19 Jessie Matthews & Justice Torres
- 20 David Flowers
- 21 Marilyn Krug & Tim Stallsmith
- 22 Patti Arebaugh and Kim Tillis
- 23 Daphni Myohanen, Kali Snider
- 24 Joan Benson, Dee Dee Hartsine
- 26 James Baird
- 27 Noah & Aaron Springsteen, & Landon Wood
- 28 Brandon Brown, Albert Jahna
- 30 Dee Dee Flowers and Hayli Septer

June 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 VBS Sunday Communion Worship Sunday School	2 Men's Bible Study @ Dutcher's Diner	3 Base Camp 9-4 Al-a-non/AA CR	4 Gents & Babes Base Camp 9-4 Youth/Cross Talk Arts Remix	5 Feeding Tampa Bay Base Camp 9-4 AA/Bible Study	6	7 AA Mtg.
8 Worship Sunday School	9 Base Camp 9-4	10 Base Camp 9-4 Al-a-non/ AA. CR	11 Gents & Babes Base Camp 9-4 Youth/Cross Talk	12 Base Camp 9-4 AA Mtg. Bible Study	13	14 AA Mtg.
15 Worship /SS 	16 Base Camp 9-4	17 Base Camp 9-4 Al-a-non/AA CR	18 Gents & Babes Base Camp 9-4 Youth/Cross Talk Arts Remix	19 Tampa Bay AA / Bible Study Holiday for Staff	20	21 AA Mtg.
22 Habitat Offering	23 Base Camp 9-4	24 Base Camp 9-4 Al-a-non/AA CR	25 Gents & Babes / Base Camp 9-4 Youth/Cross Talk	26 Base Camp AA Mtg. Bible Study Dental Bus	27	28 AA Mtg.
29 Youth Sunday Worship / SS Union Wear	30					



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| 1 Richard & Jannie Leisses | 18 Bob & Betty Morris |
| 3 Jim & Mary Baird | 21 Keith & Ginger Bentley,
Jim & Kimmy Hage and
Augustine & Jelyssa Ibarra |
| 5 Kenneth & Charolotte Petery | 23 Richard & Elaine Carden |
| 8 Gerry & Linda Johnson | 26 Michael & Lindsay Guerrero |
| 9 Mike & Donna Russel | 27 Norm & Conie Herron |
| 11 Dan & Judy Heppner and
Bob & Deb Holden | 28 Jeff & Yvonne Welty |
| 16 Tiger & Rayann Gullett,
Ken & Michelle Koon,
Walt & Barb Snyder and
Bill & Norma Strickler | 29 Tom & Mary Ann Wright |

July 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Al-a-non AA Mtg. CR	2 Bible Babes Children No Youth Cross Talk Arts Remix	3 Staff Holiday Tampa Bay AA Mtg. Bible Study	4 	5 AA Mtg.
6 Communion Worship/ SS	7	8 Al-a-non AA Mtg./ CR	9 Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk	10 AA Mtg. Bible Study	11	12 AA Mtg.
13 Worship /SS	14	15 Load for Gatlinburg Al-a-non/AA CR	16 Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk Arts Remix	17 Feeding Tampa Bay AA No Bible Study Gatlinburg 2025	18 Gatlinburg 2025	19 AA Mtg. Gatlinburg 2025
20 Worship /SS Gatlinburg 2025	21 Gatlinburg 2025	22 Al-a-non AA Mtg. CR Gatlinburg 2025	23 Babes Children/Youth Arts Remix Gatlinburg 2025	24 AA Mtg. Bible Study Dental Bus Gatlinburg 2025	25 Gatlinburg 2025	26 AA Mtg.
27 Union Wear Worship / SS Samaritan Touch Offering	28	29 Al-a-non/ AA CR	30 Babes PRAYER & PRAISE SERVICE	31 AA Mtg. Bible Study		



- 1 Roman Fishetti & Jerry Niedermeier
- 2 Jaelynn Wallace
- 3 Bev Dunn, Kayla Lane, Barb Lyttle & Gerri Stallsmith
- 5 Bob Holden
- 6 Ron Archer, Charlot Luinetti
- 9 Michael Guerrero, Adian Justiniano, Elaine Powell & Devin Williams
- 10 Ron Booth, Nevaeh Burnett & Claudia Diamond
- 11 Mary Baird, Teri Hallimen & Norma Strickler
- 12 Sacha Hernaiz & Jazmine Mendez
- 14 Geri Roosa, Jan Stevens & Aubrianna Wallace
- 16 Lynx Castro, Diane Furr & Jeremiah Lambright
- 17 Mary Ralston
- 18 Trudy Farthing & Michael Flowers
- 19 Allen Pearson
- 21 Anita McCardle
- 22 Jenavieve Gonzalez
- 25 Leslie Morrison & Shirley Pearson
- 26 Brandon Goff
- 27 Nathan Cruz, Nasir Degand & Cheryl Sime
- 28 Dean Bittinger
- 29 Lisa Jarrett
- 30 Nesha Becker, Dani Flowers & Erma Isaacson



- 5 Joe & Teri Hallimen
- 10 Jim & Carol Dingman
- 11 Marc & Tracey Caraballo
- 24 Bud & Gwen Shady
- 26 Greg & Mary Love-Ghetia
- Brandon & Shemika Swafford
- 29 Gene & Sherry Septer
- Jack & Joan Solomon

