



FALL 2024

# The Newsletter

## WORSHIP SERVICES

*In-Person & Online*



### 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



I am thankful for Union Church because:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## FROM YOUR LEAD PASTOR

Dear Members & Friends,

Fall is such a wonderful time of the year. The summer heat is fading and Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming. We need to count our blessings. Family, friends, and "YOU", Union Church, are the top of my list.

What a blessing it is to be your Pastor, to open up God's Word to you, to cheer you up, encourage you, watch you serve, and put your faith into action. You are wonderful and amazing! And those of you still up north, I can't wait to be with you again.

Through my 37 years with you, I have learned to trust God for everything, and trust you to make God's vision a reality. At the end of summer, every year, our winter surplus has evaporated in the summer heat. We could worry and fret about that . . . but what good does that do?

I asked myself a question: "Why are you thankful for Union?" I began to write, and the list was long and the blessings many. Everything I value today has been enhanced or given to me by our journey with you.

What if each of us wrote a list of blessings that Union has opened up for you. Count your blessings and write a "Gratitude Check" to Union Church. Thanksgiving is the mountain top of our "fall" season. Pray about it and perhaps write a little note with your offering, expressing your thankfulness for Union.

**God Bless You With A "Thankful Heart"!**

*Pastor Bill Breylinger | Lead Pastor*



## Falling In Love With Jesus

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. - John 15:9*

To fall in love with Jesus, we must know Him, not superficially, but deeply. This kind of knowledge takes time and persistence. Just as in any good relationship, we must put in time praying, reading His Word, and being intentionally more like Him and less like us. We must spend time in God's presence, trusting and believing that He is who He says He is and will do what He said He will do.

This fall we will learn what "Falling in love with Jesus" looks like. We must first see Jesus as a real person not just someone we study in our Bible. The kids will put themselves in the Bible stories as if Jesus was talking or interacting with them. What if Jesus was standing in front of you, healing, talking, forgiving, or teaching you? By seeing these stories in a more personal way, the kids will understand that

Jesus is still doing and working in our lives every single day. He wants our obedience, but He also wants our affection. He wants a heartfelt relationship with us. Some of the stories we will read are: The woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:20). If Jesus could stop for her, He could stop for me. The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). If God could look past all that the prodigal son did and take him in His arms, He could forgive me and take me in His arms and tell me its ok. And the rich young ruler (Mark 10: 17-27). Jesus wanted a relationship with him but He couldn't give up what he felt was important to him. What is Jesus telling me to give up in order to be with Him?

### BASE MINISTRY DATES:

October 30, 2024 | **Harvest Festival & Trunk-Or-Treat** | 4:00PM – 6:00PM

November 20, 2024 | **BASE Ministry Family Dinner** (Please bring a covered dish from your culture) | 5:30PM

On behalf of the BASE Children's Ministry, thank you for all your donations for Back-to-School.  
**We Love Our Union Church Family – Miss Fawn Waterman | Children's Minister**

# Creative ARTS ministries



Right now, we are in such a time of division and hatefulness, and missing out on the most important gift we possess, the gift of LOVE. The basic theme of so many of the Beatles compositions center around this very topic and Paul McCartney believed and still does today at 82, that love is really all you need!

I invite you to join the Creative Arts Ministry on November 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate humanity and the power of God's LOVE in this very special program.

December 15<sup>th</sup> is also a very special day for the creative arts, as the entire campus is transformed once again back to the 'Magical Christmas Village'. Featuring a train adventure full of unexpected surprises, many activities for all ages including ornament making, food tasting, a choir program at the top and bottom of each hour, an outdoor movie with smores and a campfire, and much, much more!

(If you would like to participate in any of these events, please contact Pastor Jim!)

**Pastor Jim Lanier | Creative Arts Pastor**





# Church Secretary's Report

- Total Full Time Membership: 500
  - Households Represented: 323
  - Total Associate Membership: 37
  - Households Represented: 21
  - Total Membership: 537
  - Total Households Represented: 344
- (This Report is as of 08/26/2024)*

Gatlinburg Camp  
Decisions  
July 13, 2024  
Rededications &  
Baptisms:  
24

## In Deepest Sympathy

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

- ✝ Ted White (February 25, 2024)
- ✝ Gloria Tondee (June 9, 2024)
- ✝ Jonathan Braddock (June 14, 2024)
- ✝ Adam Greenslade (June 22, 2024)
- ✝ Marilyn Taylor (June 28, 2024)
- ✝ Mary Rhoades (August 23, 2024)
- ✝ Carmen Mason (August 27, 2024)

We start decorating for Christmas in 9 weeks! YES, it's true!  
We have some exciting elements planned this year!  
If you would like to help with this wonderful transformation, please contact Chris Hess  
(863) 453-3345.

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.*

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



## October 17-23, 2024

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

### 3 Shows:

- Alabama Theater
- Legends
- Carolina Opry

### 4 Dinners:

- Chestnut Hill
- Chuck's Steak House
- Joe's Bar & Grill
- California Dreaming

We travel in church vans and Pastor Bill will lead a daily morning Bible Study on: **"GET OUT OF YOUR HEAD"**.

5 Star Accommodations  
3 Shows & 4 Dinners  
COST:

\$1,280 Per Couple  
\$990 Per Person (Alone)  
\$735 Per Person  
(Triple with 2 Bedrooms)  
\$625 Per Person  
(Quad with 2 Bedrooms)

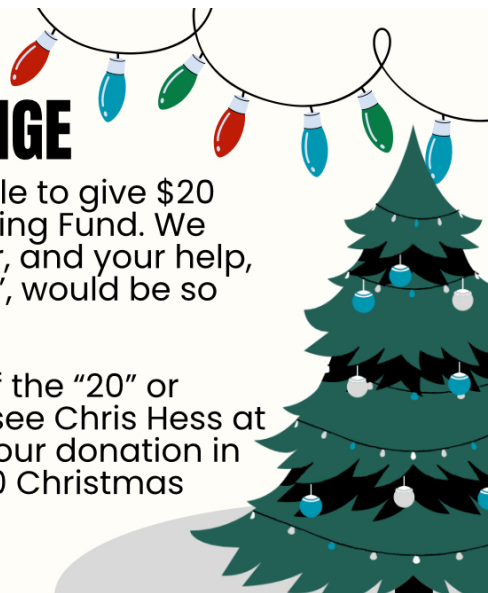
If you're interested in attending, please contact the Church Office: (863) 453-3345 OR  
Connie Evers: (863)443-0181

## 20/20 CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

This challenge calls for 20 people to give \$20 towards our Christmas Decorating Fund. We have beau-t-full ideas this year, and your help, whether financially or as an "Elf", would be so appreciated and welcome!

So, if you would like to be one of the "20" or would like to be an "Elf" please see Chris Hess at the Welcome Center or place your donation in an envelope and mark it: "20/20 Christmas Challenge".

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!



## MINISTRY FAIR

Come and find a place to serve!

DETAILS COMING SOON!



Hello Union Family!

It's been a crazy summer! With VBS and Gatlinburg Camp, it kept me busy with media projects! But God keeps showing up in everything I do and reminds me that in the chaos that He is there with me.

I'm still working out some kinks in getting our online membership directory online but am working closely with Miss Chris and our membership database vendor to get it done. In the next few weeks, I'll also be installing a new video transmission system for the front projector screens in the Main Sanctuary. We recently had an issue where only the front screens started glitching out. To fix this, we're going with a fiber optic video transmission system that carries an HDMI video signal over 10 Gigabit fiber optics. Our current

projectors are standard definition (SD, 1366 x 768) but having this infrastructure in place will futureproof our video transmission system for any changes or upgrades in the future.

I am also working on making several improvements in the tech booth to where control of everything can be done from within our presentation software, ProPresenter 7. I currently have it set up to where our light software (Chroma-Q Vista 3) and our streaming software (vMix 4K) are controlled by commands I insert into ProPresenter. Now I'm working on being able to control the soundboard from it as well. There is a part I'll need to order to make this work.

There is another project that will be coming up soon relating to the End-Of-Support of Windows 10. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Microsoft will end support for the Windows 10 operating system. While this isn't a critical thing at the present time, it will come up before we know it. There is a total of 5 systems on campus that currently run Windows 10, and all of these systems are incompatible with the new Windows 11 system due to hardware limitations. While it may seem that this is a minor issue, it could potentially open methods for malicious actors to gain access to information on our systems. Every day, new patches are distributed for the Windows 10 and 11 operating systems to close avenues of attack from these malicious actors. But once Windows 10 reaches its End-Of-Support date, there will be no more security updates for these systems – EVER. So, before this date comes along, replacement of these systems is strongly recommended. If anyone is interested in contributing to these projects, please reach out to myself, Pastor Aaron, or Miss Tracey for more information!

God keeps showing up with being able to accomplish any task to further His kingdom and His works through us. I have faith that He will continue to meet any need for us now and in the future.

With love, Ryan Haynie | Production Manager / IT Administrator

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

SCAN ME

USE PHONE OR SMART DEVICE

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

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

Freedom From Your Hurts, Habits, & Hang-Ups

**Celebrate Recovery**  
A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT @ 6:00PM | LOCATED IN PORTABLE 1

# 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!



## FRESH PERSPECTIVE

As we prepare to enter the harvest season, the Holy Spirit placed it on my heart to reflect on the journey we've taken together. God has blessed me with a '**FRESH PERSPECTIVE**' on how He moved mountains, parted waters, and ordered our steps to bring us to where we are now. I resonated so much with Pastor Aaron's latest sermon, "**Don't Stop**", where he references the instructions God gave the Israelites to bring down the walls of Jericho (*Joshua 6:1-5*). It called for seven days of trust and obedience, with the first six days revealing no progress at all. They had a choice to only see the wall they were up against and become discouraged, weary and throw in the towel; or they could trust in the promise of God and in what He had for them on the other side. It's all about perspective.

We have been marching around the walls of our debt and we are on our day six. The Israelites didn't stop at six...and neither will we! Pastor Aaron expressed that if he were God, he would have allowed a little bit of the wall to fall each day so that the progress would encourage and motivate them to keep marching. That's not how He orchestrated it for the Israelites, but for us here at Union, we have been blessed to have evidence of our progress. Detailed to the right are the last six years of our total church debt. →

It's amazing what God has done, but it hasn't been easy. If I'm being totally honest with you, as I write this article, we are in the toughest time of the year for us financially. I can choose to focus on the negative bank balance and the bills on my desk...or I can focus on His track record of provision. Through this journey, God is developing my spiritual muscles to be able to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. I'm learning what it truly means to be still and know, to trust Him in the in between times, and to expect Him to move at just the right time, as only Jehovah Jireh can. It's always darkest before the dawn, but a breakthrough is on the horizon. **Union...day seven is coming, so DON'T STOP!!!** Until then, we continue to march on together with the confidence that the wall of debt is about to come down and we'll step into a new season of God's plan and purpose for us. Thank you for faithfully marching alongside of us. We love and appreciate you all beyond measure!



### Yearly Total Church Debt

2018 – 2019 =	\$774,767.00
2019 – 2020 =	\$585,550.00
2020 – 2021 =	\$279,170.00
2021 – 2022 =	\$192,744.00
2022 – 2023 =	\$98,550.00
2023 – 2024 =	\$44,750.00

***“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.”  
Hebrews 10:36 (NIV)***

**With Love & Gratitude,**

**Tracey Caraballo  
Church Treasurer**

## **The Rock at Union Youth Ministry**

I hope you all had a great summer. We certainly did! We had another amazing year at Camp in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Every year we truly believe it's the best year we've ever had and somehow it is. We saw God work in incredible ways in the lives of our students and adults. This was truly one of the best camps I've been a part of as the Youth Pastor here at Union. A large number of students also helped out at VBS this summer with Miss Fawn. I'm so proud of our students. Several of our youth are actively serving in our ministries at Union Church on Sunday mornings, such as helping Ryan in our tech booth, nursery, Children's Ministry, and with our contemporary worship praise team. We truly have an amazing group of teenagers, and I am honored to be a part of what God is doing in our Youth Ministry. Kids are back in school, fall is almost here, and what a busy season it's going to be. Soon the leaves on the trees will begin to change colors, and the air will become crisp and cool. Just kidding...we live in Florida. But I do love this time of the year with football season starting and all of the other festivities that it brings. From dressing up in our favorite costumes, or whatever costume my wife tells me to wear, to Thanksgiving with our families and everything in between. As the summer wraps up and fall begins there are a lot of great events to look forward to in Youth Ministry, from movie nights, bonfires, special praise and worship nights, and scavenger hunts. As we kick off the start of the school year, we are looking for volunteers to help drive kids home after church on Wednesday nights. If you or know of anyone that would like to get involved in our Youth Ministry, feel free to contact me at [emorrison@weareunion.org](mailto:emorrison@weareunion.org) or call the church office.

**May God Bless You | Pastor Eddie Morrison | Youth Pastor**



# Community Thanksgiving Feed

**WE ARE GIVING THANKS TO GOD!**

It's Thanksgiving time again!! It's hard to believe that another year has passed. We are getting excited about the upcoming "FEED." This is our annual event where we feed those who are in need in our community. We would love your help with this successful event.

*"Whenever or wherever a hand reaches out, we will be there!!!"*

**DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

**WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR YOU AND YOUR HELP!**

You may be spending time with family and friends but you can still be a part of this thankful and exciting holiday here at Union Church!

**YES, I would be willing to bring (by Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>):**

- 2 lbs. Of Stick Butter
- 2 #10 Cans of Green Beans
- 4 Cans of Cranberry Sauce
- 2 Gallons of Milk
- 2 #10 Cans of Sweet Potatoes & 1 Bag of Brown Sugar
- 3 Large Bags of Stuffing Mix (Please NO Stove Top)

**YES, I would be willing to volunteer (Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> @ 8AM-12PM):**

- Preparation

**YES, I would be willing to volunteer (Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> @ 8AM-12PM):**

- Cut Vegetables

**YES, I would be willing to bring (by Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>):**

- Buy & Bake an 18-20 lb. Turkey
- BAKE a Donated Turkey (Pick Up on Sunday 11/24)

**YES, I would be willing to volunteer (Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 8AM):**

- Can Opener
- Cranberry Dipper
- Pie Cutter / Packer
- Potato Peeler (Please Bring Peeler)
- Stuffing Cooker (2)
- Turkey Carver (Please Bring Carving Knife)

**YES, I would be willing to volunteer (Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>):**

- Clean Up Crew (10AM)
- Counter (9:30AM)
- Dish Washer (8AM)
- Driver (Please Call Office For More Details | 9:30AM)
- Kitchen Helper (Starts at 7AM)
- Line Monitor (9:30AM)
- Potato & Corn Cooker (7AM)
- Server (9:30AM)
- To-Go / Walk-Ups (10:30AM)

If you would like to serve or donate with the Thanksgiving Feed you can sign-up in the Church Lobby. Please drop this filled out page and/or donation at our table, in the offering boxes, or mail it to the church:

PO Box 240  
Avon Park FL 33826

For any questions or for more information please call the  
**Hands For Homeless Office:**  
**(863) 212-8941**

Mark All Donations To:  
**Hands For Homeless**  
Memo:  
**Thanksgiving Feed**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**"BE A PART OF  
HOT MEALS &  
WARM HEARTS"**

