

SPRING 2025



the Newsletter

MARCH & APRIL

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LEAD PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

March 5th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of a 40-day journey with Jesus toward the Cross, an empty tomb, and Easter on April 20th. Along the way, there will be snapshots of the drama unfolding. The face of Jesus softened as the pain drains out and Jesus whispers. *“It is finished...Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”*

We look at the blood-stained wood of the cross, the body of Jesus already taken away. The thought, this blood is not man’s blood, but Gods. Absurd to think that these nails held my sins...your sins...to a cross! Max Lucado wrote in his book, *“3:16”*...

*“But God on a cross?
A split-lipped, puffy-eyed, blood masked God on a cross?
Sponge thrust in his face?
Spear plunged in his side?
Dice tossed at his feet?”*

No! We would not have designed our salvation this way! But we were not asked to design the way to our salvation and Easter. But we have been asked...**TO RESPOND TO IT!**

Happy Easter

Pastor Bill Breylinger (Lead Pastor)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- APRIL 13th PALM SUNDAY**
Services: 9am & 11am
- APRIL 16th Wednesday Worship Services**
Children’s Ministry: 3:30pm-6:00pm
Youth Ministry: 6:00pm
Crosstalk: 6:00pm
- APRIL 17th MAUNDY THURSDAY**
Service with Communion: 7:00pm
- APRIL 18th GOOD FRIDAY**
Service: 12:00 Noon
- APRIL 19th Children’s Easter Egg Hunt**
11:00am-1:00pm
- APRIL 20th EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**
Sunrise Service: 7:00am (In front of Historic Church)
Blended Service: 10:00am (Main Sanctuary)





OUT OF THE WILDERNESS

Hey Union! So, in my last newsletter, I shared with you that God was closing a chapter in our journey and about to do something new. That **'something new'** was us being able to celebrate the elimination of our debt and stepping into the next phase of our journey **DEBT FREE!!!** Can you believe it?!!! Throughout our years of roaming in the wilderness of debt, God was working behind the scenes creating streams in the wastelands that would, in His perfect timing, lead us out and into a Promised Land designed just for us to freely carry out our Kingdom assignment.

So where do we go from here? How do we begin to shake off the mindset of our wilderness experience? How do we start to possess and cultivate the land God has led us to? I believe the answer is simple. We keep walking in faithful obedience and allow the Spirit to lead us as we continue to be vessels of His provision and steward it well. We know that new challenges will always arise, but God has us on a firmer foundation to overcome them. We may not step into a season of overflow immediately, but I believe that overflow is on the horizon.

With our upcoming Easter Match, we will have the first opportunity of the year to lay the groundwork for a season of overflow. This will be the first year in many years that we will not have to take any portion of this special offering to apply to debt. That means that **100%** of it will go into our Contingency account to help subsidize our lower summer offerings and carry us through. It's always been a goal of ours to have **\$100,000.00** in our savings as we head into the summer months, and the possibility of this is now real!

So, I trust God to help us all to remain faithful and press on until OVERFLOW is our new normal. Thank you all for what you've allowed God to do through you to bring us to this point in our journey. We are so excited to see what God is going to do next, and we know that...

WHATEVER'S NEXT IS BETTER!!!

(Thank you, Pastor Aaron, for that word!)

*With Sincere Love & Gratitude,
Tracey Caraballo (Treasurer)*



"Forget the former things. Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

~ Isaiah 43:18-19

Union
Church

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

SCAN ME



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

USE PHONE
OR
SMART DEVICE



Not too long ago, the Creative Arts Ministry had to say goodbye to a very special dear friend and servant of Union. She was always there helping others in the music program as well as participating in various aspects of the music ministry herself. She was also our church treasurer for many years and helped in so many other ministries through the years.

Of course, I'm speaking of Marilyn Taylor who was a dear friend of mine as well as so many of you as well. In waiting for our winter folks to be here and getting through a very busy season, we are now ready to celebrate her life on **Saturday, March 8th**, at **2:00pm** with a very special service in our main sanctuary!



Marilyn is missed, as are so many others who have moved on to be with Jesus. But her impact on this church will live on through precious memories and unforgettable stories that will endure through time.



Now that all of the cold weather is behind us, we can look forward to the Spring. Springtime is a time for renewal, new beginnings, growth and rebirth. Its life after the cold. During this time the Children's ministry will focus on the theme of **"God's New Beginning"**.

Change is inevitable whether it be a new home, new school, new friends or moving into those pre-teen or teen years. Change can be somewhat overwhelming especially for kids.

The Bible reminds us that God is always doing something new in our lives. We must learn to trust God through this process and embrace His plan with confidence that He knows what's best. God not only has a plan, but He has the best plan with the best outcome for us. When we face difficult situations, He wants us to welcome change with faith and trust in the one who holds our future. He's working on something special, so keep your eyes, heart and mind open for His wonderful surprise. He's got a new thing coming....

Fawn Waterman (Children's Minister)

Isaiah 43:19 "Behold, I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

We are in need of greeting cards for our outreach ministry!

If you have any unused greeting cards, the church office would truly appreciate receiving them. The cards are sent to our church families.

**Children's Ministry Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 19th @11:00am-1:00pm**





On the day I'm writing my newsletter, the verse of the day (in the Bible app) was Galatians 5:14 NLT. If you're looking for a verse that summarizes the commands in both the Old and the New Testament, here's what Paul wrote... "For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: Love your neighbor as yourself." But who is our neighbor? Is it the people who live beside us or in front of us? Or is it bigger than that? Maybe the people we go to school with, or work with, or go to church with?

A Jewish expert in religious law once asked Jesus the same question, "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29) Jesus being Jesus, told the story of the Good Samaritan. What Jesus wanted the Jewish expert (and us) to hear is that anyone, anywhere is our neighbor and everyone is worthy of our love.

You as a church did this, this past Christmas. You provided gifts for our children, and teenagers that might not of had a Christmas at all last year. I just wanted to say **Thank You**... I am so blessed to be a part of a church that loves unconditionally.

Spring is already almost here!!! During spring break the teenagers and I are going to turn my office into a game room so the teens have a place to come hang out and fellowship before and after youth group. March 13th is our annual youth beach trip, if you know any teenagers that would like to go, let us know. All are welcome.

We are still looking for someone that would help with our van ministry, picking up and or dropping off teenagers on Wednesday nights. If you are interested in helping, please see myself or Miss Chris.

Thank you for all you do.

God Bless

Pastor Eddie Morrison (Youth Pastor)



Carry-out Easter Dinner!

Proceeds benefit Hands for Homeless & their Building Hope Campaign

Let the staff & volunteers of Hands for Homeless do the cooking for you this Easter! It's simple! Choose your dinner size (4 or 8 people), pick your protein from the menu, then just give us a call or send an email to place your order! Meals are cold at pick up & heating instructions are included.

Menu & Pricing:

- Roasted Chicken & Stuffing with garlic & herb compound butter **OR** Baked Ham with citrus & mustard glaze
- Buttermilk Brown Butter Cornbread
- Roasted Green Bean Almondine
- Honey & Brown Sugar Roasted Carrots
- Mashed Potatoes with sour cream, scallions & garlic confit
- Carrot Cake with walnuts & coconut topped with a Cream Cheese Icing

Chicken Dinner: 4 people, \$82 OR 8 people, \$130
Ham Dinner: 4 people, \$90 OR 8 people, \$150

Pick up: April 19th, 2025
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Union Church Fellowship Hall
151 Robert Britt St., Avon Park

Did You Know in 2024?

- Hands for Homeless served **64,940 meals** through their pantry, hot meals program, & Feeding Tamps Bay distribution
- **4,485** hot meals for Meals on Wheels
- **162,629** pounds of food distributed across all outlets of the program

Hello Union Family!

Our Mission outreach
Hands for Homeless

is offering Carry-Out Easter Dinners for you to purchase or to buy one for a struggling family you may know. Reservations by April 4th.

Please place your order
(863) 257-1780 Joyce

handsforhomelessap3@gmail.com

Inquiring Minds
for the cake bakers for
Hands for Homeless.....
did you know a quarter cup of
un-sweetened applesauce
can be substituted for one egg?

Secretary's Report

Church Membership

- Total Full Time Membership: **505**
- Households Represented: **327**
- Total Associate Membership: **31**
- Households Represented: **18**
- Total Membership: **536**
- Total Households Represented: **345**

(This Report is as of 02/25/2025)

In Deepest Sympathy

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

- ✝ Lisa Jarrett's Brother-In-Law
- ✝ Muriel Rice
- ✝ Janice Smith
- ✝ Leland Welch
- ✝ Roy Isaacson
- ✝ Janet Hardy-Vickers
- ✝ Herbert Call

Please Meet Our Newest Members

- ◆ Joe Coomes
- ◆ Shirley Dias
- ◆ Trenna Haake
- ◆ Jim & Kimmy Hage
- ◆ James Harris



- ◆ Gary & Janice Hinkle
- ◆ Beth Oliver
- ◆ "Charlie" Rickard
- ◆ Bernie Weithorn
- ◆ Ed Wright

To get involved or for all other worship experience information, 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 information to the attention of Miss Chris. (863) 453-3345

Easter Flowers



Orders are just around the corner!!!

This year we are offering...Easter Lilies...Gerber Daisies...and Peace Lilies. If you are interested, the flower forms are in the Church Lobby or call the Church Office for assistance.

Myrtle Beach Trip October 16th-22nd, 2025

- 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
- **\$615.00 (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.

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship Sunday School	3 Men's Bible Study	4 Al-a-non CR	5 Gents & Bible Babes Children & Youth Cross Talk & Choir Ash Weds. Service @ 6 pm MC	6 Feeding Tampa Bay Bible Study Serendipity	7 Choir Outing	8 Memorial Service for Marilyn Taylor 2 pm - MC
9 Time change Worship Sunday School	10 Spring Break	11 Spring Break Al-a-non CR	12 Spring Break Gents & Babes Children Youth Cross Talk & Choir	13 Spring Break Bible Study Youth Beach Trip!	14 Spring Break	15
16 Worship Sunday School	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Al-a-non CR	19 Gents & Babes Children Youth Cross Talk & Choir	20 Feeding Tampa Bay Bible Study	21	22 Hands for Homeless Quarter Auction
23 Worship / SS Samaritan Touch Offering	24	25 Al-a-non CR	26 Gents & Babes Children Youth Cross Talk & Choir	27 Bible Study Dental Bus	28	29
30 Worship / SS Union Wear	31					



- March Birthdays**
- 1 Jane Breylinger, Isaak Myohanen & Walt Snyder
 - 2 Sky Breedlove, Denny Gay & Robert Harris
 - 3 Gerry Johnson
 - 4 Lori Brown, Jan Loney & Shelby Somarriba
 - 5 Lucille Ferrigan
 - 6 Christopher Manus
 - 8 Wilma Viau
 - 9 Jenise Lopez
 - 10 Amber Allen & Jahlani Bing
 - 11 Sylvia Rodriguez
 - 12 Joe Hallimen, Duan King, Jane Mechling & Donna Russell
 - 13 Ollie Bush & Debbie Vale
 - 14 Helen Bruns & Suzanne Hunnicutt
 - 15 Josiah Ibara, Richard Leisses, Dale Vredeveld & "Charlie" Rickard
 - 18 Jim Barnhart
 - 19 Sue Cornelius, Sybil Holz, Joan Johnson, Don Richardson & Joe Wall
 - 20 Charity Spurlock
 - 21 Tiger Gullett & Mary Wolf
 - 22 Linda Anderson & Bonnie Jones & Chef Jacob Lyons
 - 23 Betty Larimer
 - 24 Dylan Wallace
 - 25 Haley Barfield
 - 26 Tristan Calvin, Ken Koon & Augustina Stone
 - 27 Jacob Flowers, Trish Jaggessir & Josue Somarriba
 - 29 Jim Dingman, Kimmy Hage, Lindsay Guerrero, Dorothy Reed & Beth Shaw
 - 30 Sharon Fogle & Yvonne Welty



- 5 Jerry & Beverly Lake
- 6 Steven & Shirley Tirella
- 9 Dennis and Bev Dunn
- 12 Wally & Jan Loney
- 16 Gary & Jan Smith



- 1 JoAnn Suess
- 2 Mike Caban & Judy Williams
- 3 Paul Scruton
- 4 Mary Love-Ghetia
- 5 Mary Ellen Koons & Frank Seitz
- 6 Linda Bassett
- 8 Marie Resendes
- 9 Holly Kierce
- 10 Alex Degand
- 11 Kevin Brastrom
- 12 Jeff Harstine
- 14 Larry Ferrigan & Tyler Haynie
- 18 Judy Uccello
- 20 Marshall Bounting & Dorothy Howell
- 22 Ariel Hahn, Chy Short & Jack Solomon
- 24 Dennis Dunn & Art Holmes
- 26 Rayann Guilett
- 28 Bill Krug
- 29 Leroy Haynes
- 30 Tanah Becker, Cathy Jo Jahna & Kendra Sloan

April 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Al-a-non AA CR	2 Jolly Gents Bible Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk/Choir	3 Feeding Tampa Bay AA / Bible Study Serendipity	4	5 AA
6 Worship Sunday School Church Wide Baptisms & Picnic	7 Men's Bible Study	8 Al-a-non AA CR	9 Gents & Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk/Choir	10 AA Bible Study	11	12 AA
13 Palm Sunday Worship Sunday School	14	15 Al-a-non AA CR	16 Gents & Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk/Choir	17 Feeding Tampa Bay AA / Bible Study Maundy Thursday 7 pm	18 Good Friday @ Noon	19 AA Easter Egg Hunt 11-1 Easter Dinner Pick Ups
20 Easter Sunday	21 Holiday for Staff	22 Al-a-non AA CR	23 Gents & Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk/Choir	24 AA Bible Study Dental Bus	25	26 AA
27 Habitat Offering Worship / SS Union Wear	28	29 Al-a-non AA CR	30 Gents & Babes Children/Youth Cross Talk/Choir			

- 1 Chris & Lisa Short
- 12 Joe & Marsha May
Al & Linda Pontarelli



- 25 Kale & Linda Bradley
- 28 Allan & Pam Liskey