



# UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

## Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants

At the end of this past month, Cynthia and I celebrated 46 years of marriage. Yes, I robbed the cradle, I know. We were 21 and 20 and both of us were still in college, living off dreams and hopes and very little money. I dropped out of school to work until she graduated; then she began her nursing career while I completed my degree.

Cynthia's parents had budgeted to give her fifty dollars a month for incidentals while she was in college. They graciously continued that even after we married. In fact, that gift basically paid our married student housing rent at Clemson (\$72/month!!). Even for the seventies, those post-World War II metal houses were a deal!

I learned something about generosity and faithfulness from her parents. They had other children in school and at home, but their giving was reliable and made a real difference for us. It taught us about giving, about making a plan and sticking to it, and finding joy in making a difference for others.

Who taught you about giving? Where did you learn to be a faithful giver, or a "cheerful" giver, as the Apostle Paul puts it? I know you've heard sermons about giving because I've preached a few. But people don't learn so much from a message as they do from example. Did someone else's generosity teach and inspire you?

While serving Christ with generosity certainly has to do with our financial gifts, it obviously is much more than that. We give our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, just like we pledge when we join the church. Union UMC is a very active church, but it offers so many ministries only because our people give of their time and talents. Union impacts hundreds of lives each week, and that's possible because the giving of our people is reliable. Well done, good and faithful servants! (Matt. 25:23)

Let's keep it that way, especially during these summer months! Usually there is a drop-off in giving as people are often away in the summer. And the truth is, we'll tend to spend extra on our vacations, trips and entertainments while neglecting to support our ministries as we should.

So, let's resolve this summer to be cheerful givers – with deep appreciation for all God has given us, and gratitude for the opportunity to be useful in God's work. And, let's be reliable givers – keeping our church strong in its mission and witness. If you are away on Sundays, use our online giving ([www.unionirmo.org](http://www.unionirmo.org), and click on the GIVE tab under Quicklinks).

Finally, just like my in-laws did more than expected, I'm going to ask you to do something more. Our Building Fund pledge cycle ends this month, but we won't have another pledge cycle until our combined Annual Budget Fund and Building Fund pledge in October. Yet our mortgage payments will continue monthly. *Can you continue to give to the Building Fund at your present level of giving?*

Thank you. Your consistency in giving will teach the next generation about generous giving more than any sermon of mine. *God's blessings and protection to all, - Stephen*



## Joy Class Spring Garage Sale Update

Congratulations Church members and friends!! Your donations, purchases, and continued support for the Joy Class and our garage sale helped us raise over \$16,000 this spring.

We have been doing garage sales over 44 years and this is the most funds we have ever raised. Additionally, our donations to numerous local nonprofit organizations were valued at over a thousand dollars.

With your continued support, and the continued dedication and hard work of the Joy Class, we were able to share our joy and our countless blessings with many, many families in our Church and community.

Our next sale will be on October 14, 2023. We hope you join us again. Together, we will again share the many blessings God has given us.

## Welcome New Members!

We welcomed Kheana & Paul Najim into the Union family on May 7. Be sure to introduce yourself to this wonderful couple when you meet them in the hallways and offer them a warm welcome!

We welcomed several new members on May 21 as this newsletter was going to print. Be sure to check out the August edition to see their pictures!



## Lake Murray Salkehatchie Camp is back!

Union will be full of campers **July 15-22**.

Check out below for ways you can help support this ministry.

### Water-a-worker!

Help us keep our Lake Murray Salkehatchie workers well hydrated while they work on their sites!

**Donate a case of water or Gatorade July 2 and 9**

Drop off your donations in the far corner of the FMC Gym!  
(closest to the back parking lot)

### Wish List Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner with Lake Murray Salkehatchie!

Union UMC will be hosting a Pot Luck Fellowship Dinner for Lake Murray Salkehatchie on Wednesday, **July 19 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Family Ministries Center Gym. **Please fix your favorite family recipe to serve 8-10 people and come share a meal with the workers of Salkehatchie!**

There will be a program featuring a slideshow of pictures of workers on their sites making repairs on selected homes. **Salkehatchie workers will also bring "wish lists" of items before the Union family that their homeowner sites need that are not covered by the budgeted repair items.** These items of need may be used appliances, furniture, or other necessary items.

Questions, contact Jason Barrs, 803.318.6061. Let's open our hearts and hands to support Lake Murray Salkehatchie and the families who they will be serving in our community.

**Join in worship** with the Lake Murray Salkehatchie workers on Sunday, **July 16**, at **9 a.m.** for traditional worship or at **7 p.m.** in the Chapel for contemporary worship.



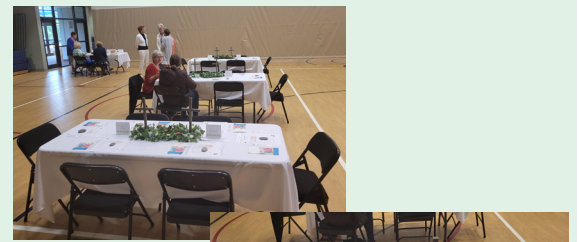
## Grits, Grace and Gratitude

The United Women in Faith (UWF) hosted its second annual Grits, Grace and Gratitude brunch on Saturday, May 6, for all of the ladies of Union. There were around 40 ladies in attendance who enjoyed a grits bar, fruit and pastries provided by our circles!

Andrew Boozer from Senior Resources, Inc. was our speaker for the morning- sharing information about the many programs that the non-profit administers as they work to combat food insecurities as well as isolationism in seniors to keep them healthy and independent as long as possible.

Libby Tucker, UWF Vice President and long-time volunteer and former Board member for Senior Resources, shared some of her experiences delivering meals on wheels to homebound seniors through Senior Resources. She concluded the program with thoughts on the gratitude that exudes from the seniors who have so little, but who open their doors to volunteers who have shown them a little grace by bringing them a warm meal and offering a few kind words each day.

The ladies all went home with a hand-painted "gratitude rock" to serve as a reminder to be grateful for all of the things that God has given us.



Thank you for supporting  
**Zack Reinhardt**  
and his family with a  
successful  
blood drive!



**63 DONATIONS - THANK YOU UNION**

### Special note from the Reinhardts

Dear Union Family,

Thank you so much for all of the love you have shown our family over the past few months. We are so blessed to have such an incredible church family! We can't wait to bring Zack home and introduce him to all of the people who have been praying for him!

Thank you all so much!

Joe, Sara, Alex, and Zack Reinhardt



## End of Year at SonZone!

We had a blast this year with our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at SonZone! Our final Sunday night we tie-dyed beach towels and enjoyed some ice cream treats!

**Thank you** to our leadership team:

Jacquelyn Starks, Stacey Grooms, Cameron McClive,  
Glenna Dean Wildt and Trish Odom!

***Y'all are rockstars and made our time together so fun!***

We wish our rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders well as they move to youth group this summer, and we can't wait to spend a new year with our new 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders!



## Bibleland is almost complete!

It has been an amazing journey working with our artists: Barbara Hammett, Susan Johnson, Jan Buck, Vic Caldwell and Coby Bowers as our town comes to life.

Thanks to Willis Griffin we have a house (or Temple or Upper Room) to live in and a garden to grow vegetables. Watch this summer for our grand opening as props are put in place and we add the finishing touches!





## Parents' Time Out



## Save the Dates!

June 10 - 3-6 p.m.

July 8 - 11-2 p.m.

Aug. 12 - 11-2 p.m.

Sept. 9 - 3-6 p.m.

Oct. 7 - 11-2 p.m.

Nov. 11 - 3-6 p.m.

Dec. 9 - 11-2 p.m.

Each month our nursery team offers childcare for infants through 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

We ask for \$10 per child to cover the cost of a meal and some supplies for the 3 hours.

RVSP by the Wednesday before to [andreamarie6368@gmail.com](mailto:andreamarie6368@gmail.com), and include any allergies when you sign up.

## Safe Sanctuary Training

June 4 at 10 a.m.

Wesley Center Gym

This is for all Children or Youth volunteers who need to be certified or renewed.

Email Suzy if you plan to attend so we have enough supplies at: [suzy@unionirmo.org](mailto:suzy@unionirmo.org)

## BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Sunday, August 13th at 5pm

Concert by the Union Praise Band followed by Food Trucks and games for the whole family. We will be "Blessing the Backpacks" so make sure you bring yours!

Please bring items to donate to the D5 Snack Pack Program (grits, oatmeal, granola bars, juices boxes, etc...)



UNION UMC  
7582 Woodrow Street  
Irmo Sc 29063



FOLLOW JESUS HERE,  
THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

## Vacation Bible School is coming!

We are moving and grooving this year with "Ready, Set, Move: Follow Jesus Here, There and Everywhere"

### Save the Dates:

June 18-21 from 6:15 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**Registration is here!!** Scan the QR code below to register your child today!

Kid  
Registration



**Volunteers** are needed in all areas, from small group leaders, to crafts to traffic flow to recreation...

*Where do you want to plug in?*

Scan the QR code below with your phone to sign up to volunteer today!



Volunteer  
Registration







# Graduate Sunday

## June 4

### Both Services

# Youth Beach Day June 11

Add this to your summer  
schedule!

We will meet at the church  
and head down to hang out at  
the beach for the day and be  
back late that  
afternoon/evening.

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UNION BASKETBALL PRESENTS

## SUMMER CLINICS

Clinics will be held throughout the summer to work on and develop all basketball skills. FREE to all!!!

**6/27, 6/29, 7/6, 7/11,  
7/13, 7/25, 7/27,  
8/1, 8/3**

*6-8pm FMC and Wesley Center  
Gyms  
Meet in FMC to start*

**Union Basketball is introducing Clinics this summer to help work on and grow skills of the game!**

We will meet from 6-8 p.m. in the FMC Gym and then split up based on age throughout the FMC Gym and Wesley Center Gym.

Contact Eleanor or Thomas with any questions!

**Youth of Union Student Leadership Team is taking applications for new members for the 2023-2024 year.**

Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Graders and up may apply to be part of this fabulous team!

We gather bi-monthly to plan all things Youth of Union, and we have a blast doing it! **Our planning retreat will be August 5-6, 2023.** See Eleanor Cannon for an application or more info! Or email at Eleanor@unionirmo.org

## YOUTH OF UNION FISHING TOURNAMENT



**JULY 23**

LIMITED SPOTS  
Sign up Today at

<https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations>

**Youth of Union Chartered Striper Fishing Tournament on Lake Murray will be held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Anglers will be competing against other Youth of Union friends for biggest fish caught, based on weight!

Winner will get a trophy and a "fish story"!

**There are very limited spots available for this event - registration closes when spots are full or June 25, whichever comes first.**

Price of \$125 includes everything: gear/supplies, Captain fees, lunch/snacks/drinks, fuel, and winner trophy.

Sign up with link on UnionIrmO.org/youth or here: <https://union.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1733942>



## Transportation Angels

If you have a temporary, or longer term, need for transportation to and from medical appointments, or help picking up medication or groceries, then the Transportation Angel team members are ready to serve you!



Please contact Gail Elfert at 803.466.2403 or [celfert@aol.com](mailto:celfert@aol.com), and let her know what kind and when you need assistance. The earlier you give us notice, the easier it is to get you matched with someone who is available at the time you need. If you have trouble reaching Gail you can contact Rev. David Anderson at the church at [david@unionirmo.org](mailto:david@unionirmo.org) or 803.781.3013.

Mark your calendars for this 5-week bible study in August taught by Rev. Faye Jones!

THE MIRACLE-WORKING  
MESSIAH  
The Miracles and Healings of Jesus  
in the Gospel of Mark

Every Thursday in August  
6:15 pm-7:15 pm  
Fellowship Hall

Mark 5:34b "Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.."

painting by Yongsung Kim

## Office Updates

Union is in the process of switching our church management software from ACS to Realm. The official transfer of data is scheduled for the last week of June, starting June 26. As we prepare for this transfer, we are working through our records and consolidating and updating information wherever we can.

If you have moved recently, or have a new cellphone number or email, please contact the church office so we have your contact information up to date.



## The Blessing Box

Our **Blessing Box** continues to be a blessing to those in our community struggling to make ends meet. Summer break is upon us so please remember that needs will be greater during this time.

**Special note:** fresh food and chocolate do not survive the heat! Loose packets of veggies, fruits, oatmeal, seem to linger in the blessing box. If the box is full, overflow can be left in the storage closet in LL4 or in the collection box in the narthex. Thank you to all for your contributions!

CHURCH 2022 DIRECTORY



UNION  
DIRECTORY

## Directories are available!

If you did not have your picture taken for the directory and signed up on the waiting list to get one, you may come by the church office and get one.



# WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM NOW

## SEEKING LEAD AND ASSOCIATE TEACHERS!

Interested? Send your resume to [careers@unionirmo.org](mailto:careers@unionirmo.org) today!

See all available positions & job descriptions at [UnionIrmO.org](http://UnionIrmO.org)





 **Check In & Information**

## Check out our new QR code!

Simply scan the QR code with your phone and click the link when it pops up!

## Union's Landing Page

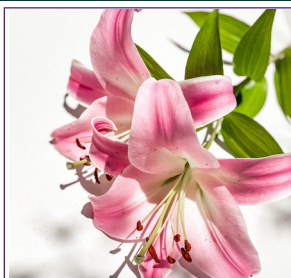
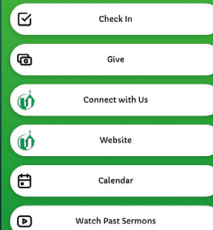
You'll find all kinds of helpful links:

- Register your attendance with the 'Check-In' button
- Our Website
- Our Calendar
- Online Giving
- And more!



@unionumcirmo

Know Christ, Share Faith, Show Grace



***Many thanks to all those who donated funds in memory or in honor of a loved one this Easter season!***  
***We raised \$2302 for Sharing God's Love.***



### ***Easter "Special Donations" for Sharing God's Love - 2023***

To the Glory of God and in memory of John Brooks, by Jane C. Brooks  
 In memory of Alexander DuBose, by Zina Diaz  
 In memory of Alexander DuBose, by Jacueline DuBose  
 In memory of Alexander DuBose, by Mariorline DuBose  
 In memory of Max Lampl, by Jonathan Nash  
 In memory of Dr. Eddie Williams, with much love by Vickie Williams  
 In memory of our mom and Nana, Sally Hays, by Nick, Lauren, Eliza & Mollie Haigler  
 In memory of Bentley, by Matt Haroff  
 To the glory of God and in loving memory of Paul, by Jeannie Jeter  
 In memory of Robert Sauer and Mr. & Mrs. William Kaup, by Nancy K. Sauer  
 In thanksgiving for the Resurrection and in loving memory of Elizabeth Bruner, by the Martin and Latiff families  
 In memory of Terry Mooney, by Jo Mooney  
 In memory of Joey Pellicci, truly a "caring person." We miss you every day. - Mom & Dad  
 In memory of Carol Preston, by Joey, Libby and Jonathan Tucker  
 To the glory of God and in memory of our daughter, Alice, by Lewis & Arlene Milligan  
 In memory of Mildred & Grady Adkins Sr., by Marcia & Grady Adkins  
 In memory of Harvey & Elizabeth Kirkland, Marcia & Grady Adkins  
 In thankfulness and praise for the life of Robert Gantt. Love, Richie & Vickie  
 In loving memory of Jan Croft. Love, Richie & Vickie  
 In loving memory of Marion Folk, Jr., by Judy Folk  
 In memory of Jeff McLane and Amelia McLane, by Susan McLane  
 Given in memory of Annie Droste, of the Netherlands, and mother and mother-in-law of Marc & Amy Parker Droste, by Dalton & Barbara Parker  
 In memory of Don & Jane Partl, by Marian Pender Pertl  
 In memory of Verlyn McEntyre, by Morgan & Joyce Stokely  
 In memory of Dave & Nita Stokely, by Morgan & Joyce Stokely  
 In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Bryan (Red) Williams and Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Steadman, Sr., by Lee & Lura Williams

## ***Easter "Special Donations" for Sharing God's Love - 2023***

In honor of Jessica and Thomas, by Marshall and Lora McKinney

In honor of our precious grandchildren, Heydan, Connor, and Macy Gayle, by Richard & Elaine Starks

In honor of my children: Sherry Carroll, Scott Brown and his wife Bridgett; my grandchildren:

Christopher Carroll, Correy, David and Alex Brown, by Kay Brown

In honor of my grandparents, Colleen & Dean Littlejohn and Sandra & Butch McKee,

by Morgan McLaren

To the glory of God and in honor of our family, William, Lexi, Mary, Liam, Emma and Sharon.

Love, Bill & Judy Blitch

In honor of Rehlander Confirmation, by Kim Hill, William King and Mike & Debbie Driggers

To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for our precious children and grandchildren,

by Jim & Ann Martin

In celebration of Easter and in honor of the upcoming special birthday of our dear friend,

George How, by his many friends and admirers!

In honor of our children and grandchildren, by Steve & Kathy Taylor

In honor of my sweet great granddaughters, Blaire and Rubi. I thank God for you each day. - Nina

In honor of my sweet and loving husband and daughter, Joe and Sarah Wildt. Love you both!

by Glenna Dean

To the glory of God and in honor of our children, their spouses, and our grandchildren,

by Lewis & Arlene Milligan

Thankful for the dedication of Vic Caldwell and Tim Livingston as we journeyed through our disciple class, from the entire class.

In honor of Jim Martin. Thank you for all you do for me! By Debbie Goodman

In honor of our sons, Alex and Zack. We are so thankful for you! By Joe & Sara Reinhardt

In honor of Evelyn McEntyre, by Morgan & Joyce Stokely

Special gift given by Jack R. Chapman

Special gift given by Brantley Brinkley

Special gift given by Jay & Whitney Delbridge

Special gift given by Patricia & John Burnette

## **Memorials - April 24th - May 21st**

### **Memorials received in memory of:**

**Jay Hershberger By:** Connie and Bob Warren

**Butch Butler By:** Judy and William Clarke, Cathy and Gregg Morton, Paulette Cartledge and Bryan Budnek, Elizabeth Harrison, Robert Douglas, Barbara and Dub Hammett, Dr. and Mrs. John A. Cooper, Michael Trogon, The Chancel Choir from First UMC in Asheboro, NC, Kit and Ava McNair, Keith and Robin Adams, David Herndon, Beverly and Mike Butler, Marti and Michael Flippo, Charlotte and James Holly, Steve Hirsch, Kathy and Leon Hogan, Donna T. and J. S. Braley

**Joe Embler By:** Joy L. Downs



We extend our sympathy to the following family at the loss of their loved one:  
**IN MEMORIAM**

Frances Wann-Fulghum in the loss of her daughter, **Camilla Frances Wann.**

We celebrate the birth of:  
**Elias James Rice Tolbert** was born April 21. He was born to Miriam and Kristoff Tolbert. Robin and Tom Cattell are his grandparents

**Winston Micah Turner** was born May 4. He was born to Frank and Tania Turner.

## SUMMER *office hours*

**JUNE 5 - JULY 28**

<b>MONDAY</b>	9AM - 3PM
<b>TUESDAY</b>	9AM - 3PM
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9AM - 3PM
<b>THURSDAY</b>	9AM - 3PM
<b>FRIDAY</b>	9AM - 12PM
<b>SATURDAY</b>	CLOSED
<b>SUNDAY</b>	CLOSED

The Church office will be closed  
July 4 for Independence Day.

The August Union Connection  
Deadline is July 14th.

The Union Connection is a monthly publication of Union United Methodist Church.

Articles should be submitted to Amy via email  
([amy@unionirmo.org](mailto:amy@unionirmo.org)).

## Our Ministry Team

Senior Minister  
**Rev. Stephen Taylor**

Associate Minister  
**Rev. Faye Jones**

Minister of Visitation  
**Rev. David Anderson**

Church Administraor  
**Susan Vinson**

Administrative Assistant  
**Erin Schoolmeester**

Finance  
**Barbara Tanner**

Director of Communications and Promotions  
**Amy Gustafson**

Director of Ministries to Children & Families  
**Suzy Broadus**

Director of Youth and Leisure Ministries  
**Eleanor Cannon**

Assistant Director of Youth Ministries  
**Thomas Walsh**

Director of Music Ministries  
**Frank Turner**

Coordinator of Contemporary Worship  
**Michelle Cochcroft**

Facilities Manager  
**Ned Calvert**

Assistant Facilities Manager  
**Steve Ragan**

Assistant Day School Director  
**Leslie Kulp**

Nursery Coordinator  
**Andrea Williams**

Production Manager  
**Jake Cosentino**

Organist  
**Joey Rothfuss**



Union United Methodist Church  
7582 Woodrow Street  
P.O. Box 705  
Irmo, SC 29063-0705

Visit us on the Web at [www.UnionIrmo.org](http://www.UnionIrmo.org)

If you would like your name removed from this newsletter mailing list, please contact the church office at 803-781-3013.

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# UNION Connection

Union United Methodist Church Irmo, South Carolina

Sunday worship times:  
9 a.m. Traditional worship  
11 a.m. Contemporary worship  
Telephone: 803-781-3013  
Fax: 803-781-3034

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

Ministers:  
Rev. Stephen Taylor, Senior Minister  
Rev. Faye Jones, Associate Minister

