



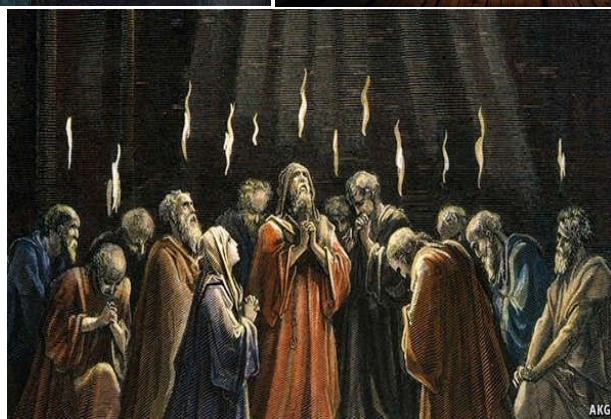
Union News

June 2026

"[The disciples] saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.." Acts 2: 3-4

Dear friends and covenant partners of Union Community Church,

So, what did it look like? We read in Acts 2 that with the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost something like tongues of fire came to rest on the heads of each of the disciples. Below are some artists' best guesses of you might have seen that day...



Was it little candlelight sized fires over people's heads? Was the room filled with a giant blast of heat and light? We don't know what it actually looked like. But what we do know is that those tongues of fire set the disciples on fire for sharing Christ with the entire world. And that's not the only time it's happened. Throughout history, huge breakthroughs for the Gospel have often come after sudden outpourings of the Holy Spirit. Jonathan Edwards wrote this:

From the fall of man to our day, the work of redemption in its effect has mainly been carried on by remarkable communications of the Spirit of God. Though there is a more constant influence of God's Spirit always in some degree attending his ordinances, yet the way in which the greatest things have been done towards carrying on this work, always have been by remarkable effusions [of the Holy Spirit], at special seasons of mercy.

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June Elders

Tim Grigg
Leslie Harris
Jr Thompson
Lyn Wollenberg

Communion

June 7

Stated Session

June 21

Nursery Helpers

June 7- Vicky & Fiona
June 14- Kim & Sally
June 21-Melody & Shelly
June 28-Allison & Jordan

Continued from front page

In one of his web posts, John Piper writes that what Edwards is saying here is that time after time, God has moved in extraordinary ways in the church by "... pouring out his Holy Spirit in fresh, new, uncustomary, dramatic ways" on his people. Often what resulted from these outpourings were Great Awakenings, the transformation of the church, and/or the spread of the Gospel.

You hear Christians often pray for revival. But I wonder if we are praying for the right thing when we pray for one. A revival is simply the result of something much more important that has happened. Praying for revivals seem sort of safe. They happens "over there" and are led by "someone else." It's something you visit and you might even leave changed from. Should we be praying for revivals or should we be praying that God would pour out his Spirit in fresh, new, uncustomary, and dramatic ways ON US? The outpouring the Spirit happens RIGHT HERE not over there. It is something that visits YOU & I and we will MOST DEFINITELY leave completely changed from it. Should we be praying for revival or should we be praying that we might see tongues of fire descend on us?

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor James

WORSHIP FOR JUNE

You know the saying "When in Rome, do as the Romans do?" The story is that this saying comes from the late 4th Century. When Augustine traveled to Rome he was confused why members of the church fasted on Saturdays. Ambrose told him, "When I am in Milan I do not fast on Saturday; when I am in Rome I do fast on Saturday," advising Augustine to follow the local customs of churches in different parts of the Roman Empire.

Paul's letter to the church of Rome, was written to try and unify the Roman church that differed greatly from church to church (based largely on whether the church was predominately Gentile or Jewish). Paul did not prescribe to the saying "when in Rome, do as the Romans do." Instead, Paul hoped for a bring the church together based on a unified understanding of the Gospel and work of Christ. Paul would argue, "when in Rome, don't do as the "Romans" do, do what Christ would do."

Lectionary Series: "When in Rome..."

June 7- Romans 4: 13-25, "When in Rome... No Interest"

-Celebration of the Lord's Supper

June 14- Romans 5: 1-8, "When in Rome... Monkey in the Middle"

June 21-Romans 6: 1b-11, "When in Rome... 6 Feet Under"

-Father's Day

June 28-Romans 6: 12-23, "When in Rome... Anchor's 'Away'"

July 5- Romans 7: 15-25, "When in Rome... Devil on My Shoulder"



HYMNS & MORE FOR JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST

Thanks for everyone who submitted song requests for June, July, and August! Join us for worship each week this summer as we listen to and sing our congregation's favorite worship songs and hymns!

Flourishing Team News

JUNE DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE: ACCOUNTABILITY

When most of think about the summer, we think about taking breaks and going on vacations. It is good for us to find times of rest. We just need to make sure that we don't also take a rest from God!! Let's be challenged this June to hold one another accountable in continuing to grow closer to God and to be his hands and feet in the world.



Accountability is hard. We were not created to live as self-reliant and independent. And yet it is easy to be tempted to live this way:

- Some of us are afraid of being vulnerable
- Others of us are just used to keeping our private lives private
- Admitting our failures and problems can make us feel ashamed
- Being seen as competent is highly valued in our society
- It feels good to think that we are in control of the situations around us

But our creator is Triune. He is never alone and he has designed us to live in community and interdependence with others. Without other Christians to keep us grounded, it is so easy for us to not face the truth about who we are or how we are falling short of where God is leading us. Being held accountable with other Christians can help us face the lies we all tell ourselves about ourselves and help reorient us in the direction of God's patient love.

Be on the lookout online (www.union-communitychurch.com/discipleshipchallenge) and at worship for some specific ways you can work on accountability to Christ with the help of others this June!



Sat, Jul 18 | Union Community Church

ECO Women's Retreat

Join us for a day of fellowship, inspiration, and spiritual renewal as ECO women of Christ come together in faith, get to know each other, and share resources.

Registration deadline: July 13, 2026

Ladies of all ages are encouraged to attend! Visit our church website to register for this event!



UNION ENSEMBLE PRACTICES

The Union Ensemble will practice right before church on **June 9th** to prepare our last anthem before the summer! This is our last practice before a brief Summer Break!

5 CENT A MEAL– CAM

On the **first Sunday in June**, we have a special offering at Union to support various local missions. Our **5 Cent a Meal Offering** this month will benefit Least of These. Please give as you are able!



BOOK CHICKS

Join us monthly during our Book Chicks book club meetings for some food, fun, and fellowship! For more information or to find out what book we are reading, please reach out to Kim Morrison. Our next meeting is **Monday, June 15th, at 6:30 PM.**

THANK YOU FOR ALL OUR BINGO HELPERS!!

Huge thanks to everyone who helped make Bingo at Terrace Ridge a success! Your time, energy, and smiles made each game day special. And a very special thank-you to Nancy Gardner for thoughtfully gathering the prizes each month—your dedication kept the excitement going. We appreciate you all!

HAPPY YEARS & WOMEN'S CIRCLES

These groups will be on summer break until our September meetings! See you then.

PLUGGED IN WITH KIDS

The Flourishing Team is hosting a fun event on **Sunday, June 7th directly after church.** The youth of Union are ready to teach our congregation about some of the new technology that is available to use! Mark your calendars and come for lunch and then some fun interactive presentations where you can learn about AI, Chat GPT, using QR codes and more! You may be shocked to see what all is out there!



PRAYERS, MEALS, & MORE

The Mentorship and Care Committee has been busy sending cards and prayer quilts and preparing meals for those who may be in need of “a little extra hug and love” at this time in their lives. If you know of anyone we can help, please call : Kennedy Bajek (803)579-2261 or Jr. Thompson (704)865-5686 and express your concern. If you would like to help us be the “hands, feet, and heart” of Jesus, we welcome you to join us. We meet on the 4th Sunday of each month at 2:00.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FORESTVIEW TRACK AWARD CEREMONY

Thank you! It took a bunch of people to help make this outreach event happen! We had a team setting up the room, women making desserts, volunteer cooks, volunteer servers, and a bunch of helpers to clean up. A number of the congregation even wrote cards of encouragement for track students (with Bible verses included). All in all, this ministry reached out to over 65 students and their families from Forestview.



One might ask, what's the point of an outreach event like this? There wasn't "suddenly" a bunch of new track connected visitors at worship. Well, there is a point!

- (1) Did you know that we did a similar meal for the Cross Country Team this Fall. Many of the kids are the same and we took some serious steps this year making these students feel welcome at our church. We also are beginning to build an ongoing relationship with the coaches!
- (2) Two different parents in attendance talked with some of us about our blessing box. One wanting to add food periodically themselves and another wanted to talk about other items that might be put in the box. Connections are being made!
- (3) The Football coach was present and wanted to know if we could be involved with their program this fall.
- (4) We supported some of our students who are part of the program! Did you Fiona Holeman got an award for her work in field!
- (5) A couple of our people at the event talked about conversations they had with students and parents; conversations about the students' goals and future plans.
- (6) A couple kids actually picked up and took the "cards" of encouragement/ Bible verses!

That's just some of why outreach events like this meal are important!! Thanks again for everyone who helped make it a success!!!

SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

UNION COMMUNITY CHURCH
5615 UNION RD, GASTONIA, NC

JUNE 22-26 | 5-8 PM

VBS
A WEEK OF FAITH, FUN & ADVENTURE!

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST

FAITH FRIENDS FUN!

KIDS WHO HAVE COMPLETED PRE-K - 12TH

- EPIC CHALLENGES**
Discover strength, courage & teamwork!
- COOL ACTIVITIES**
Games, songs, crafts & more!
- FAITH THAT CLIMBS**
Trust God, follow His path & reach new heights!
- STRONGER TOGETHER**
Building friendships in a welcoming community!

CLIMB HIGHER. TRUST DEEPER. TOGETHER.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!

“TRULY MY SOUL FINDS *Rest* IN GOD;
MY SALVATION COMES FROM HIM.”

- Psalm 62:1

PRAYERS NEAR AND FAR

PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY & WORLD

Father's Day Prayer

June is Father's Day! Please take time to pray for all the fathers in our community: new fathers who are unsure what to do, fathers for whom nurturing does not come easy, father's attempting to partner with their wife to help their children thrive, fathers of older children and adults who continue to try and instill Christian values in their children while reminding them that they are loved, fathers who have lost a child and continue to grieve, and all the fathers out there who worry as they strive to parent as God directs them.

Please also keep in prayer churches within ECO-

Hope Community Church in Wilmington- Please pray for the church's mission partners. Hope is connected with Vigilant Hope- a mission that works with the homeless, HelpHub- that connects people in need with resources in the community, and Eden Village- a 31 home tiny house community for the homeless. They also partner with Verbo Christian Church in Nicaragua.

Huntersville Presbyterian Church in Huntersville- Please keep in prayer Huntersville VBS program, Illumination Station, starting June 15 and their High School Camp at Fun in the Son starting June 22. Huntersville also partners with SCORE Mission agency, Hearts and Hands Food Pantry, and Angels and Sparrows Community Table and Resource Center.

Jason Presbyterian Church in La Grange- Pray for Jason's pastor and other leaders. Fill them with wisdom, discernment, and courage. Pray for their congregation and that they would be filled with unity, truth, fellowship, and with hands eager to serve,





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>Sundays</u> 9AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship</p>	<p>1 7 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>2 10 AM Bible Study</p>	3	4	5	6
<p>7 5 Cents a Meal CAM 2:30 PM SOC Meeting</p>	<p>8 7 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>9 10 AM Bible Study</p>	10	11	12	13
<p>14 1 PM Infrastructure 2:30 PM W&S Meeting</p>	<p>15 7 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>16 10 AM Bible Study</p>	17	18	19	20
<p>21 FATHER'S DAY No Session Meeting this month</p>	<p>22 6:30 PM Book Chicks 7 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>23 10 AM Bible Study</p>	24	25	26	27
<p>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 5- 8 PM</p>						
<p>28 11:45AM W&C Meeting 2:00 PM M&C Meeting</p>	<p>29 7 PM Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>30 No Bible Study</p>				

Union Community Church

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www.union-
communitychurch.com

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 8
Return Service Requested

Reverend James Holeman
Pastor

Tammy Biddix
Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Nelson
Communications Director

Jieeun Ha
Accompanist

Church Hours
3:00 PM—6 PM
Tuesday and Thursday



Save the Date



June 7

5 Cents a Meal-Least of These
Plugged In With Kids Event

June 22-26

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL