

# Union News April 2026



Dear friends and covenant partners of Union Community Church,

Happy Easter all! Where have you seen Jesus recently?

“I’ve Just Seen Jesus”

We knew He was dead,  
"It is finished," He said.  
We had watched as His life ebbed away.  
Then we all stood around  
'Til the guards took Him down.  
Joseph begged for His body that day.

It was late afternoon,  
When we got to the tomb,  
Wrapped His body and sealed up  
the grave.  
So, I know how you feel,  
His death was so real  
But please listen and hear what I  
say.



I've just seen Jesus,  
I tell you He's alive.  
I've just seen Jesus,  
Our precious Lord alive.  
And I knew, He really saw me too.  
As if till now, I'd never lived,  
All that I'd done before,  
Won't matter anymore.  
I've just seen Jesus,  
And I'll never be the same again.

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**April Elders**  
Allsion Jones  
Frank Suggs  
Pam Moten

**Communion**  
April 5

**Stated Session**  
April 19

*Continued from front page*

It was His voice she first heard;  
 Those kind gentle words,  
 Asking what was her reason for tears.  
 And she sobbed in despair  
 My Lord is not there,  
 He said, "Child, it is I, I am here."

I've just seen Jesus,  
 I tell you He's alive.  
 I've just seen Jesus,  
 Our precious Lord alive.  
 And I knew, He really saw me too.  
 As if till now, I'd never lived,  
 All that I'd done before,  
 Won't matter anymore.  
 I've just seen Jesus,  
 And I'll never be the same again.

Song lyrics from the album *Larnelle: Collector's Series, Volume One*  
 Written by William James Gaither

Sincerely in Christ,  
 Pastor James

## WORSHIP FOR APRIL

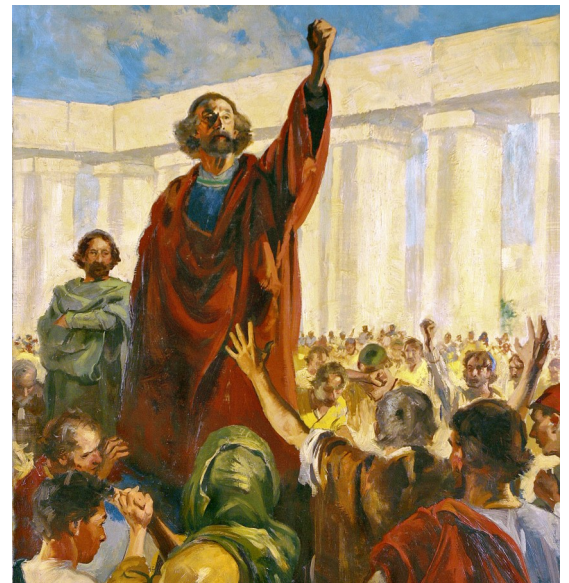
The "first" sermon of the early church can be found in Acts 2. The Holy Spirit had just shown up, the disciples started acted in a way that some in the crowds guessed was drunken disorderly conduct, and so Peter had to step in and explain what was going on! Join us for 3 Sundays this April, as we take a deep look at this significant sermon that explains not only what Christ did on the cross but how his actions can utterly transform our lives!

### Easter Service

April 5- Matthew 28: 1-20, "Refusing to Stay Dead"  
 -Resurrection Sunday... Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### Lectionary Series: First Church Sermon

April 12- Acts 2: 14-21, "First Church Sermon... Sign of the Times"  
 April 19- Acts 2: 14a, 22-32, "First Church Sermon... Facts of Life"  
 April 26- Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 "First Church Sermon... Much Ado About Something"  
 May 3- Acts 2: 42-47, "First Church Sermon... Awe-Full"  
 -Celebration of the Lord's Supper



# Flourishing Team News

## CHECK OUT A FLOURISHING SUB-TEAM

The Flourish team, in tandem with Session, has begun to branch out in its work. To accomplish some of its tasks, it is forming several sub-teams! If one of these sub-teams interests you, we invite you to talk to the leaders of that team for more information or even to join them in their work!

**Visitor Team:** A Team designed to get welcome bags in the hands of new visitors and to encourage getting contact information back. Contact people: Martha Simmons, Kay McGinnis, & Janice Meek

**Adult & Youth Mentor Team:** Provide programing for adults and youth to help teach one another some of the skills they have. Contact people: Leslie Harris, Tammy Biddix, & Sally McGinnis

**Sunday Service Music Team:** Lift up the music program at Union with increased special music opportunities and new ways to glorify God in worship! Contact people: Leslie Harris & Lisa Lawson

**Discipleship Challenge Team:** Provide a monthly discipleship challenge for the congregation. Communicate those challenges and encourage the congregation to talk to one another about how those challenges are going! Contact people: Kimberly Morrison & Vicky Holeman

**Newcomer Partner Team:** Provide trained covenant partners to come alongside church newcomers to answer questions and help them get connected in the church. Contact people: Pastor James & Frank Suggs.



## APRIL DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE: PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

How often do you pray with the primary purpose being gratitude or thanksgiving? Here right after Easter, remembering what Christ has done for us, it just makes sense to make gratitude a priority in our prayer!! That is the challenge this month! Try to add more gratitude to your prayer life!! You might even write about how it's going in the comment section of this challenge on our webpage. [www.union-communitychurch.com/discipleshipchallenge](http://www.union-communitychurch.com/discipleshipchallenge)

### THE PRACTICE (TRY 1 OF THE FOLLOWING)

**SCHEDULE A SHORT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING EACH DAY:** As part of your day add prayer(s) thanking God for all the things He does for you. Breath prayers would be an excellent way to do a short prayer of thankfulness. You can do them many times a day and about the many different things you are grateful for. Another way to practice gratitude is to pick a song that focuses on who God is, what he has done, or his generosity and to sing it each day!

**ADD MORE GRATEFULNESS TO YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:** In your longer prayer time of the day say thank you to God for at least one thing. Then tell Him what that thing, or things, meant to you.

**COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS:** Take a moment of the day to count your blessings from God with God. You can think about how blessed you are that God is who he is, how he has given us life and salvation, or some of the daily blessings he has given us.

### WHEN & WHY?

“Rejoice at all times. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” **1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18 NIV**



## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES AT FORESTVIEW

Here at the end of the school year there will be 2 opportunities for you to help “make some inroads” with Forestview High School students. We will be putting on a meal at church for the Forestview track team and one for concert choir. If you are interested in volunteering for one or both of these meals we invite you to contact Kimberly Morrison!



## UNION ENSEMBLE PRACTICES

The Union Ensemble will practice right after church on **April 19<sup>th</sup>** to prepare a new anthem for the month! Hope to see you there!

## 5 CENT A MEAL– BLESSING BOX

On the **second Sunday in April**, we have a special offering at Union to support various local missions. Our **5 Cent a Meal Offering** this month will benefit our very own **Blessing Box**. This box (near Forestview), provides food for those in need at the school and throughout the community. 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, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM.**

## WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

The **Women's Small Group** will meet on **Monday, April 6 at 5:30 PM.** Come and enjoy a fun evening of Bible study, refreshments, and fellowship. If you don't already attend, we would love to have you join us.



## GOLDEN GIRLS CIRCLE

We will meet on **Monday, April 6 at 11 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. We welcome all women to attend.

## BINGO

Our next event is **April 16 at 3 PM.** This monthly outreach touches the lives of many at **Terrace Ridge Assisted Living.** We always need people able to help those in the residence who have limitations with their eyesight, hearing loss, or fine motor issues! Consider joining the ministry this year!



# HAPPY



## APRIL HAPPY YEARS

Our next event is **Wednesday, April 15 at 12 PM.** We will have a taco bar and desserts.

# YEARS

## THANK YOU UNION!

My dear friends and wonderful Church Family: I am so appreciative of your visits, cards, food but most thankful I have a body of praying warriors. God has truly blessed me through this unfortunate journey I'm traveling right now. It is a time of slowing down and truly giving it to God. *Where He guides, He will provide!!* Much love and blessings:  
Martha Simmons

## COMING SOON.. CHURCH BANNER EVENTS

### MOC AND VIA HEALTH PARTNERS COMMUNITY PROGRAM

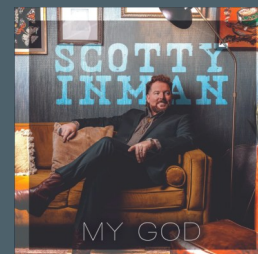
They MOC are partnering with VIA Health Partners to sponsor a community program titled “The Umbrella of Dementia.” On **Thursday, April 16th at 6 PM** we will have a special guest speaker Natalie Springle. We encourage you to take a flyer and invite your neighbors and friends.



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR...

**Scotty Inman**, Christian and Southern Gospel Artist, is coming to Union Church. Save the Date on your calendar! He will be here **Friday, May 1 at 6PM**. There will be a love offering during the event to help pay for the concert. This is not an event to miss!

Find out more about Scotty Inman here: <https://www.scottyinman.com>



### APRIL OFFICE HOURS

During the month of April, Tammy will be on vacation. But we will have someone in the office once a week. That's the day to visit if you need to be let into the church, wish to call the office, or want to stop by with a delivery or question! Pastor James and Jennifer Nelson will also be in the office off and on during the week to check and respond to mail, email, and phone messages.

#### April Revised Hours

- Thursday, April 9th, 3-6PM, Claire Cabral
- Tuesday, April 14th, 3-6PM, Carol Beasley
- Tuesday, April 21st, 3-6PM, Pam Moton
- Thursday, April 30th, 3-6PM, Claire Cabral

### MENTORSHIP AND CARE COMMITTEE

A big thank you to everyone who came out to our first **Mentorship and Care Meeting** in March! Next month we will meet on the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, April 26, at 2 PM**. If caring for others is something that you are passionate about, we hope that you will consider checking out one of our meetings!!

The M&C Committee is trying to help make sure the congregation can pray for everyone in the congregation who could use it and even lend a little helping hand when necessary! We don't want anyone to fall through the cracks. If you hear of someone going thru a life changing event (temporary or permanent... small or large... personally or in their family) please contact one of our “**Prayer, Meals, and More Coordinators**” who can contact those individuals to find out more and get information to the people who need to know if necessary! Please contact:

- Kennedy Bajek- (803) 579-2261, 18kennedywade@gmail.com
- Junior Thompson- (704) 865-5696

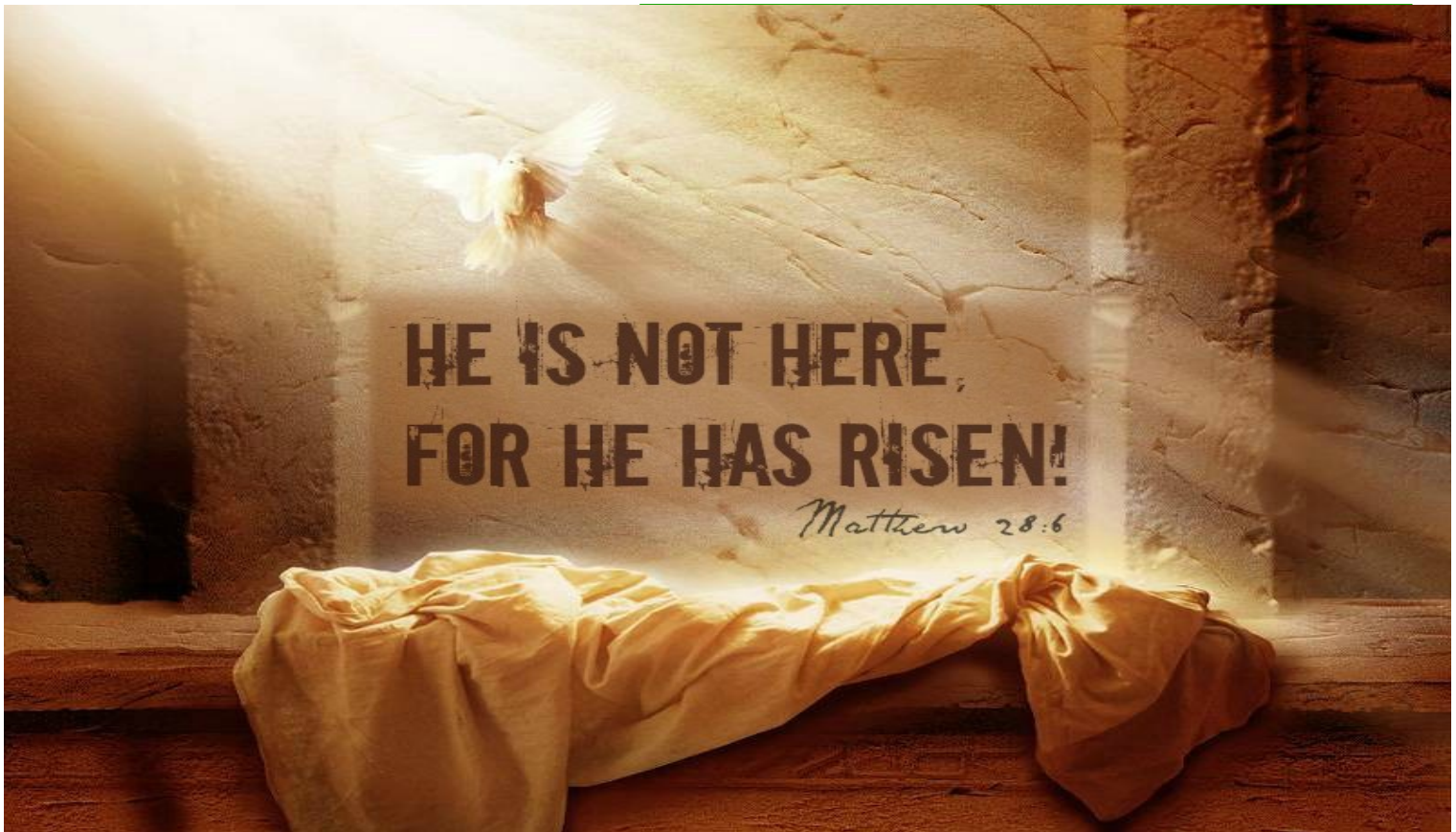
### CHANGE TO 2026 BUDGET

Due to this brand-new committee being formed, Session has added a new budget area to our church's 2026 Budget. This budget area will fall under heading Mentorship & Care Committee.

#### Mentorship & Care Committee

- Shut-in Ministry- \$200
- Visitor Reach Team- \$200
- Meals & More Program- \$300
- Adult and Kids Mentor Program- \$300
- Total: \$1,000





## PRAYERS NEAR AND FAR

### PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD CHURCH

Take time this month to pray for where the church finds itself in locations of hardship. Today's ten most dangerous places to be a Christian in terms of persecution are: North Korea, Somalia, Libya, Eritrea, Yemen, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Iran, and Afghanistan. This year countries in Southern Africa have dealt with record-breaking floods and Tonga and Borneo experienced large earthquakes in February and March. Current hotspots for famine risk can be found in Sudan, Gaza, Haiti, Mali, and Yemen. In all of these places let us pray for the church to be able to have the strength and resources to reach out to their neighbors in service and with the Good News of the Gospel.

### PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Keep in prayer Crisis Assistant Ministries in Gaston County and Clover Area Assistance Center for their work of meeting food needs and financial assistance in the area,.

### ECO CHURCHES

**First Presbyterian Church, Winston Salem.** Please pray for the church's April special event- "Why should the arts matter for people of faith?" with guest speaker Dr. Jeremy Begbie on April 14. Also, please keep in prayer the church's involvement in the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry, the Hawley House Women's Substance Abuse Recovery Facility, work with Young Life, and the church's connection with their partner church in Zagazig, Egypt.

**First Presbyterian Church, King's Mountain.** Please keep in prayer the church's children and youth program (a combined program with several other churches in the city). You can also pray for their growing online worship presence and recent new members!

**First Presbyterian Church, Kannapolis.** Please keep in prayer the church's Wednesday Night Life program of supper which includes: Bible Study, family activities, service, and fellowship. You can also pray for their partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, and support of the Seminary of Moscow.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>Sundays</u> 9AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship</p>			1	2	3 6 PM Good Friday Service	4 10 AM Easter Egg Hunt
5 7:00 AM Sunrise Service	6 11 AM Golden Girls 5:30 PM Women's Small Group 7 PM Men's Bible Study	7 10 AM Bible Study	8	9	10	11
12 5 Cents a Meal 2:30 PM W&S Meeting	13 7 PM Men's Bible Study	14 10 AM Bible Study	15 12 PM Happy Year's	16 3 PM Bingo 6 PM Dementia Program	17	18
19 11 AM Worship Ensemble 2:30 PM Session Meeting	20 6:30 PM Book Chicks 7 PM Men's Bible Study	21 10 AM Bible Study	22	23	24	25
26 11:45AM W&C Meeting 2:00 PM M&C Meeting	27 7 PM Men's Bible Study	28 10 AM Bible Study	29	30		

**Union Community Church**

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*class of*  
**2026**  
**GRADUATION**  
**PARTY**

Please Join Us  
in Celebration of

Brayden Morrison

Sunday, May 3rd 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Union Community Church  
5615 Union Road  
Gastonia, NC 28056  
RSVP by April 20th  
to Kimberly 704-718-6843

**YOU'RE INVITED**



**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*

April 4	Easter Egg Hunt
April 5	Easter Sunrise Breakfast and Service
April 15	Happy Year's Lunch
April 16	Umbrella of Dementia Program
May 1	Scotty Inman Concert