

April 2024



**UNION**  
**CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Disciples of Christ

## Worship with Union in April

We are excited to welcome some Union friends and guests in worship this April during Pastor Heather's surgery recovery. We hope you will join us this month in worship and for all of the great things going on at Union!

**April 7**

*Rev. Parish Myers*

**April 21**

*Rev. Hoyt Huff*

**April 14**

*Rev. David Webb*

**April 28**

*Pastor Heather Returns!*

# Vacation Bible School

**Camp  
Firelight** 

A SUMMER CAMP

*Psalm 56:3*

ADVENTURE WITH GOD

**June 3-6**

**5:30-8:30 PM**

Get ready for some summer fun at Camp Firelight! Campers, age 4 through those who have completed 6th grade, come join Sam, Lumen, and the whole gang as we learn to face our fears while trusting God. We will have stories, games, snacks, and so much fun! Sign-ups will begin online in mid-April.

# The Prayerful Pause

By Pastor Heather Webb



**Thank you for caring for our family as we prepare for my upcoming surgery. You all are wonderful people, and you continually encourage us with Christ's love even in difficult times.** My surgery will take place on April 4, and I will be taking some time off to recuperate after the surgery until April 26.

**While I am recovering, many folks are stepping in to help cover my preaching, teaching, and pastoral care responsibilities. Below is a guide to help you know what to expect while I am away.**

## **Sunday, April 7**

- Teaching Sunday School - Jonathan Byrd
- Preaching - Rev. Parrish Myers
- Communion - Alan Hickerson

## **Sunday, April 14**

- Teaching Sunday School - Jonathan Byrd
- Preaching - Rev. David Webb
- Communion - Rev. David Webb

## **Sunday, April 21**

- Teaching Sunday School - Jonathan Byrd
- Preaching - Rev. Hoyt Huff
- Communion - Alan Hickerson

## **Here are a few other notes for the month of April:**

- For Pastoral Care needs or emergencies, please contact Pasty Orr, our Elder Chairperson, so that one of our Elders can reach out to you.
- For any other church needs, please contact Patti Clark, our Church Council Chairperson.
- Our Spring Bible Studies will not take place as we originally planned. We will finish our Psalms Study next Fall.
- For any questions about GriefShare, please contact Mimi Benkoski, Amy Pritchett, Nan Deal, or Kay Smith.
- We made a few other changes to the April church calendar. The most up-to-date calendar is at [www.unionchristianchurch.net/calendar](http://www.unionchristianchurch.net/calendar). We will continue publishing calendar updates in upcoming Bulletins and Midweek emails.
- This month, Holly will begin recruiting volunteers for our VBS in June! I hope you will prayerfully consider how God can use your gifts, talents, and skills for VBS this year! Please let Holly know if you are interested in serving.

**Thank you again for your prayers and support! I love you, Union Family, and I love being your pastor. May God continue to grow and guide us forward together!**

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## **Bible Book of the Month: Romans**

Part 1: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej\\_6dVdJSIU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej_6dVdJSIU)

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SVTI4Xa5fY>

# Courageous Youth & Cool Kids



Hello Union Friends! Spring is upon us, so I hope everyone enjoys a nice spring break! As a change to our original schedule, Cool Kids and Courageous Youth WILL meet on April 7 and each Sunday afternoon in April. Our last April meeting, April 28 will be a “surprise fun day”! Look for more details in the coming weeks!

We are also preparing for our annual VBS week June 3-6! I will be recruiting volunteers to help with this amazing time of fun and faith building for our children at Union and in the community! In true Union fashion, I know you will greet me with a smile and an open heart for service when I approach to ask for help. Thank you, Union friends, for your love and continued support of our children and youth!

## **Sunday, April 7**

Cool Kids 4:00-5:15 PM • Courageous Youth 5:00 – 6:15 PM

## **Sunday, April 14**

Cool Kids 4:00-5:15 PM • Courageous Youth 5:00 – 6:15 PM

## **Sunday, April 21**

Cool Kids 4:00-5:15 PM • Courageous Youth 5:00 – 6:15 PM

## **Sunday, April 28**

Cool Kids 4:00-5:15 PM • Courageous Youth 5:00 – 6:15 PM

## 2024 SUMMER CAMP

**June 10-14 CHI RHO CAMP/Campers Sliding Fee (\$310-\$355)**

**June 17-21 JUNIOR CAMP/Campers Sliding Fee (\$310-\$355)**

**June 17-19 CHRYSALIS CAMP/Campers Sliding Fee (\$210-\$240)**

**June 21-23 GENESIS CAMP/ Campers Sliding Fee (\$273-\$312)**

**June 24-29 CYF CONFERENCE/Campers Sliding Fee (\$346-\$396)**

**July 15-19 OASIS Directors/CIT's Sliding Fee (\$220-\$240)**

Find out more information or register online:

[www.gadisciples.org/campers](http://www.gadisciples.org/campers)

## SUMMER CAMP WORKDAYS

Each workday is held from 9:30 AM—3:30 PM.

Please bring lunch and snacks. If you are interested in helping or need more information, contact Camp Christian at [campoffice@gadisciples.org](mailto:campoffice@gadisciples.org).

**Tuesday, June 4**  
**Wednesday, June 5**  
**Thursday, June 6**



# Family Promise Update

Family Promise of Athens continues to serve vulnerable families in our community. Rooted Interiors, an FPA partner, recently provided a furnishings for a family moving out of homelessness. The children were excited about their new bed, and their reaction is on the FPA Facebook page. If you have a few minutes, check out the video; it will bring joy to your heart.



Union's next host week is May 12-19. By then, we will have another family in place and will need a few more volunteers to help with driving on Monday and Saturday. Additionally, we are adding another night for meals: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Thank you, Union, for all of the many ways you support our community and FPA!

Kelly Hansford and Patti Clark



GriefShare is a support group for those grieving a death. With the exception of April 4 (Spring Break), we meet on Thursdays through May 23, from 1:30—3:00 PM. If you would like to join our group, you can register online at [www.griefshare.org/groups/180554](http://www.griefshare.org/groups/180554).

## Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 11, at 9:30 AM. All of the ladies in the church are invited to join us. During our April meeting, we will hold a card shower.



Our special person for April is Michael Brittan, as he finishes his school year. His address is, 351 Quailwood Drive; Athens, GA 30606.

## Elders' Meeting

Union's Elders will meet on Sunday, April 7, at 9:00 AM.

## Church Council

The Church Council will meet on Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 PM.

## Disciples Men

Men, join us for the April breakfast meeting of the Disciples Men at Strickland's (4723 Atlanta Highway, Athens) on Saturday, April 6, at 8 AM. We have a wonderful time, and we would love to have you come and fellowship with us.



# Safety Minute

Did you know that 15 members of Union Christian Church recently underwent three hours of Immediate First Aid training? Ms. Crystal Shelnutt, granddaughter of Evelyn and Mont Shelnutt, a highly experienced EMT Trainer/Certifier provided three hours of intense and detailed instruction in life saving steps. We covered CPR for children and adults, use of the AED machine, basic first aid, and many other topics. Now, all of our Safety and Security Volunteers, staff, and key members are available to attend to minor medical emergencies.



Mont Shelnutt, a highly experienced EMT Trainer/Certifier provided three hours of intense and detailed instruction in life saving steps. We covered CPR for children and adults, use of the AED machine, basic first aid, and many other topics. Now, all of our Safety and Security Volunteers, staff, and key members are available to attend to minor medical emergencies.

## Regional Assembly


The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will meet for its 171st Regional Assembly from Friday, April 26—Saturday, April 27. The theme for our assembly is *Telling Our Stories: Celebrating Hope in Our Shared Journey*. The event will take place at First Christian Church in Macon (2306 Vineville Avenue, Macon). You can find out more about the full schedule, pricing, hotel accommodations, food information, and registration on the regional website, printed below. The Deadline to register is April 8.

[www.gadisciples.org/regional-assembly-2024](http://www.gadisciples.org/regional-assembly-2024)



## April Serving Calendar

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Annette Saul	Evelyn Shelnutt	Jonathan Byrd	Patsy Orr	
<b>Elder</b>	Donald Hansford	Ken Clark	Jonathan Byrd	Holly Green	
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Lindy Lively,</b> Lanier Orr, Sue Williams, Lynn Chapman	<b>Earl Lively,</b> Lisa Vaughn, Ruth Cook, TBA	<b>Lisa Sledge,</b> Sue Williams, Mary Brookshire, Ruth Cook	<b>Kay Smith,</b> Lisa Vaughn, Peter Cook, TBA	
<b>Children's Church</b>	David & Jyoti Webb			Angie Eades	
<b>Children's Helper</b>	Melanie Tate	Mimi Benkoski	Sandra Allen	Amy Pritchett	
<b>Greeter</b>	Kathy Peters	Kathy Peters	Mary Brookshire	Evelyn Shelnutt	
<b>Sanctuary Prep</b>	Ken Clark	Ken Clark	Jonathan Byrd	Lynn Chapman	
<b>Safety Volunteer</b>	Ken Clark	Phillip Maxey	Leonard Williams	Eric Sherrer	
<b>Children's Chat</b>	Angie Eades	Patsy Orr	Jonathan Byrd		
	<b>April 2</b>	<b>April 9</b>	<b>April 16</b>	<b>April 23</b>	<b>April 30</b>
<b>Meet/Greet Host</b>	Nan Deal	Evelyn Shelnutt	Amy Pritchett	Julian Beckwith	Annette Saul



**YOUNG ADULT  
HANGOUT!**  
Winghouse Grill,  
Watkinsville  
Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 PM

## Young Adults

On April 9, at 6 PM, Union's young adults will hang out and eat at the Winghouse Grill in Watkinsville, located at 50 N. Main St. (formerly Doughby's Pizza). Bring \$10 or Venmo Angie Eades when you join us. The food will be delicious, and the company will be even better!

## Financial Report, February 2024

By Earl Elsner, Treasurer

February Contributions	Contributions \$ 20,646	YTD Contributions \$231,214
February Expenses	Expenses \$ 18,341	YTD Expenses \$150,512
Total 2023-2024 Budget	\$207,842	

### Cemetery

Cemetery Permanent Fund Balance: \$272,467

### Congregation Permanent Fund

Congregation Permanent Fund Balance: \$392,900

## Coming Up at Union!

### GriefShare Spring Session

Thursdays, 1:30-3:30 PM

### Vacation Bible School

June 3-6

### Cool Kids & Courageous Youth

Sundays, 4:00 (Kids), 5:00 (Youth)

## April Meetings

### Disciples Men's Breakfast

April 6, 8:00 AM

### Elders' Meeting

April 7, 9:00 AM

### Christian Women's Fellowship

April 11, 9:30 AM

### Columbarium Meeting

April 7, 12:00 PM

### Regional Assembly (Macon)

April 26-27

### Church Council Meeting

April 18, 7:00 PM

### Union at ACTS

April 26

### Permanent Fund Committee Meeting

April 30, 6:00 PM

### Family Promise Host Week

May 12-19

# Prayers of the People

## Global Prayer:

First Responders and Disaster Relief Personnel  
Around the World.

## Community Prayer:

Easter Box Families

## Prayers for Health, Healing, and Care:

Camp Christian (Upcoming Workdays)  
Sharon Abbott (Chemotherapy)  
Joyce Aument (Upcoming Tests)  
Ed Berry (High Shoals Rehab)  
Frank Baxter (Cancer)  
Mark Beach (Leukemia)  
Julian Beckwith (Surgery Recovery)  
Mimi Benkoski (Suffered Recent Falls)  
Myla Bennett  
Leon Boyce (Serious Car Accident)  
Mandie Boyce (Hospitalized)  
Pam Boyce (Health Issues)  
Billy Brackett (Hospitalized, Sepsis)  
Renee Brown (Rehab)  
Bonnie Butler  
Jonathan Byrd  
Annabelle Carter (Under Care for Seizures)  
Abel Cavin (2 year-old with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns)  
Rainey Collis (2-Year-Old, Surgery Recovery, RSV)  
Jen Crane (Gastroenteritis)  
Doc Crawford (Stroke, Hospitalized)  
Michael, Leah, Charlotte, and Juliette Crenshaw  
Eric David (Broken Pelvis, 7 Years Old)  
Jeannie Dawson (Pain in Legs has returned)  
Nan Deal  
Andra Dickens (Hospitalized)  
Jean Dickens (Upcoming Knee Surgery)  
Devin Driskell (Recovery from Accident)  
Holley Downs  
Vicky Grey (Health Issues)  
Jackie Freeman (Surgery Recovery)  
Mary Hamby (Surgery Recovery)  
Howard Hammond (Hospitalized, Heart Attack)  
Brandy Harris (Health Concerns)  
Rick Hebert (Lung Cancer Treatments)  
Greg Hindmon (Follow Up After Surgery)  
Margaret Hogan (Cancer)  
Mahlon Holland (Transitioned to Assisted Living)  
Shelly House (Anxiety and Depression)  
Nancy Huff (Hospitalized)  
Hannah Hunt (Shoulder Surgery Recovery)  
Jamie Johnson (Surgery Recovery)  
Howard Karloff (Terminal Illness)  
Terry Karloff (Addiction)  
Adam Karloff  
Sari Karloff  
Johnny Lay (Health Concerns)  
John Leonard (Stomach Cancer)  
Rev. Nate Leonard and Children (Recovery from  
car accident that claimed his wife)  
Brayden Lord (Oconee Student, Stage 4 Hodgkin  
Lymphoma, Resumed Cancer Treatments)

Sean Mahan (Surgery Recovery)  
Henry Maxey  
Jayne McCluskey (Skin Cancer)  
Angela Madaras (Declining Health)  
Ann Maxey (Hospitalized with Multiple Issues)  
Margo McClain (Broken Hip)  
Evelyn McKenzie (Waiting on Tests)  
Maxine (Colon Cancer)  
Ann Meeler (Hospitalized, Stroke)  
Becky Montgomery (Continued Health Issues)  
Bailey Moore (Foster Family Needs)  
Kaaren Mosley (Stroke, Cancer Treatment)  
Albert Munguia (Addiction Issues)  
David Nelson (Hospitalized)  
Annette Nesler (Awaiting Transplant)  
Jason Oliver (Heart Surgery Recovery)  
Karen Palmour (Cancer)  
Gunner Patterson (3-Year-Old, Medical Issues)  
Kathy Peters  
Johnny Pritchett (Recovering From A Fall)  
Margie Provost (Complications from Surgery)  
Linda Rice (Cancer Treatment; Upcoming Scans)  
Lawson Saul (Recovery from Hospitalization)  
Kenneth Savage (Cancer)  
Mason Saxon (Upcoming Brain Surgery)  
Juanda Scotland (Upcoming Surgery)  
Carlton Shelton (Hospitalized, Health Concerns)  
David Simpson (Lung Cancer)  
Mont Shelnut (Hospitalized, Brain Bleed)  
Mary Short (Hospice)  
Billy Skinner (Cancer)  
Mickey Smith (Health Concerns)  
Zane Springer (Infant; Surgery Recovery)  
Ann Stephens  
Troy Tatum (ALS)  
Jacqueline Thomason  
Harry Tracy  
Kim and Brad Tyler (Colon Cancer)  
Reese Waddell (Recovering at Home)  
Patti Wagner (Scleroderma)  
Gene Wengert (Pancreatic Cancer)  
Cathie Wettlaufer  
Lanier Whitehead (Cancer, Hospice)  
Kelly and Philip Wood  
Ryan Woodworth (Shepherd Center)

## Prayers for Those Who Mourn:

The Family and Friends of Selena Miller  
The Family and Friends of Bill Brackett

## Prayers for Our Military:

Harrison "Harry" Booth  
Tyler Brown  
Charlie Witkowski (Stationed in Poland)

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet	3 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir  Gina McKinney	4  Jonathan Byrd Emily Luke Ann Stephens Ann Thomas	5	6 8:00 AM Disciples Men 10:00 AM Prayer Call
7 9 AM Elders' Meeting 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Columbarium Phase II Mtg. 4:00 PM Kids 5:00 PM Youth  Shelby Thomas	8  Jennifer Sangster Larry Allen Steve Smith	9 9:30 AM Craft Group TBD Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Young Adult Hangout 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet	10 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	11 9:30 AM CWF Meeting 1:30 PM GriefShare  Nancy Belle Hansford	12	13 10:00 AM Prayer Call  Holly Green
14 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Kids 5:00 PM Youth	15	16 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet  Hannah Hunt Emily Maxey	17 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	18 1:30 PM GriefShare 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	19	20 10:00 AM Prayer Call
21 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Kids 5:00 PM Youth	22	23 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet	24 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	25 1:30 PM GriefShare  TJ Tanner	26 9:00 AM Union at ACTS Disciples Regional Assembly	27 10:00 AM Prayer Call Disciples Regional Assembly
28 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Kids 5:00 PM Youth	29	30 9:30 AM Crafts 6:00 PM Permanent Fund Meeting 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet				