



**March 3**

*God's Artistry*  
*Reconnected and Remodeled*  
Ezekiel 37:1-14

**March 17**

*God's Artistry*  
*Masterpiece in the Making*  
Ephesians 2:1-10

**March 10**

*God's Artistry*  
*Under Construction*  
1 Corinthians 3:1-11

**March 24**

*God's Artistry*  
*Let's Praise the Lord!*  
Mark 11:1-11  
Psalm 148



**Holy Week at Union**

*Check out the full details on page 3. We have events planned with the Union family and other local Disciples. We hope that you will worship, fellowship, and rejoice in our Risen Savior!*



**Spring Forward**  
**Sunday, March 10**

# The Prayerful Pause

By Pastor Heather Webb



**What does the peace of Christ mean to you?** God has used that question powerfully in my life recently.

Last week, after some significant pain and abnormal bleeding, my doctor found a lemon-sized mass on my right ovary, along with some fibroids. I met with a specialist, and I am now scheduled for an outpatient robotic surgery on April 4 to remove the problem. The doctors will also do a complete pathology workup after the surgery to determine if any additional treatment is needed.

**Even with all these recent medical challenges, I have sensed the profound peace of Christ deep within my bones. To me, the peace of Christ means that Jesus is always with us, giving us comfort and rest even during unexpected storms.** I have no doubt that the same One who calmed the sea is in the boat with me and with us all whenever we face the wind and waves of life that could so easily overwhelm us. Jesus is with us, Union Family, and he stands ready to speak to the storms commandingly: Peace Be Still! May we trust his voice and let it be the loudest one we hear!

**Another vital way to experience the deep peace of Christ is through our brothers and sisters who support and encourage us on the road of life. Richard Gillard's Servant Song says it well:**

*We are travelers on a journey,  
Fellow pilgrims on the road.  
We are here to help each other,  
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

*Will you let me be your servant,  
Let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace,  
To let you be my servant, too?*

**Union Family, I am so thankful to be part of such a supportive and caring church family! Thank you so much for your prayers and unwavering support, especially during this time.**

This recent medical news means that I will need to take some time off after Easter. I will be working in the coming days to arrange for coverage and make some necessary adjustments to our spring calendar. More details will follow soon. Until then, I would appreciate your prayers for wisdom and discernment in planning.

**I'll close by asking the question once again: What does the peace of Christ mean to you? To us, it means everything! May the deep peace of Christ abide with you today and always. Amen.**



### **Palm Sunday—Sunday, March 24**

*God's Artistry: Let's Praise the Lord!*

Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 148

### **Maundy Thursday Service—Thursday, March 28**

*Local Disciples congregations will join to worship together at First Christian Church, Athens at 6:30 PM.*

### **Easter Sunrise Service—Sunday, March 31**

*Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ at 7:00 AM. We will worship at the front of the church. After the service, we will enjoy a potluck breakfast. Biscuits will be provided; please bring a breakfast side to share.*

### **Easter Worship Service—Sunday, March 31**

*Rejoice in our Risen Lord with the Union family at 11:00 AM, our regular worship hour. We will not meet for Sunday School on Easter.*

## **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**Make plans to join Union for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30, at 10:00 AM. Invite a friend to join us for games, snacks, an egg hunt, and a visit by the Easter Bunny!**







Maundy  
*Thursday*

Gather with other area Disciples at  
First Christian Church, Athens

March 28 at 6:30 PM

Carpool from Union at 5:40 PM

Union will join with other local Clarke and Oconee County Disciples to reflect and worship on Maundy Thursday. Parking can be a challenge in downtown Athens, so if you would like to carpool to First Christian Church, Athens, meet at Union at 5:40 PM. The service will begin at 6:30 PM, on Thursday, March 28.



*Parents Night Out  
And Cool Kids Party*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1**

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

We invite children, ages 0 - 5th grade, to come and hang out at Union on Friday, March 1, from 5:30-8:30 PM. Parents, this is a great time for you to enjoy an evening out while your children have a blast! Kids, we will have dinner, a Bible story, games, crafts, and a movie. The theme for the night is *Treasure Hunters Seeking Jesus, Our Real Treasure!*

This event is free, but you must pre-register online. We still have plenty of slots open, so invite your neighbors and friends. They can register at [www.unionchristianchurch.net/pno](http://www.unionchristianchurch.net/pno).

## Courageous Youth & Cool Kids



Our Courageous Youth and Cool Kids have had some fun in February! March is filled with events as well.

Parents, sign your children up and enjoy a night out on March 1—Parent's Night Out. You can find out more information on the previous page or on our website!

On Sunday, March 24, we invite children, youth, and the rest of the church family to help distribute Easter food boxes. Distribution is from 3:00-5:00 PM. We always have a great time with this service project.

Cool Kids will enjoy an Egg Hunt and other Easter festivities on Saturday, March 30. There will be fun for everyone, however, so mark your calendar.

### **Sunday, March 3**

No Meetings

### **Sunday, March 10**

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

### **Sunday, March 17**

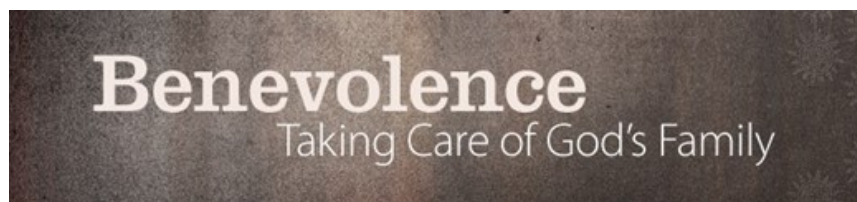
Cool Kids 4:00-5:15 PM • Courageous Youth 5:00 – 6:15 PM

### **Sunday, March 24**

Easter Box Distribution from 3:00-5:00 PM

### **Sunday, March 31**

Easter Sunday—No Meetings



## **Benevolence Offering**

Union is able to assist our neighbors thanks to your continued generous donations. Over the past month, we worked with Oconee Schools to supply a washer and dryer set to a family with a child at Oconee County Primary School. We are thankful for Union members donating a practically new dryer, transporting the dryer to the family, and installing the unit. Union partnered with another local church to purchase the washer, which was installed by Lowes. We received a big thank you from the family and Oconee Schools.

If you would like to donate to the Benevolence Fund, Union receives an offering for this fund every fifth Sunday. Our next opportunity to give is Sunday, March 31, at the end of worship.

# Family Promise Update

Union completed our first Family Promise host week in the new hosting model. It was a quiet week, but we expect future weeks to be busier with more families. We are thankful to partner with this ministry doing such needed work in our community, and we are thankful for you, Union, for your giving spirit and countless volunteer hours. If you have not been trained in our new hosting model, check out the training opportunities below, and let us know if you have any questions!

Kelly Hansford and Patti Clark

## FAMILY PROMISE ATHENS 2024 VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Come learn about the new opportunities to volunteer with Family Promise in 2024.

Family Promise is changing up our shelter model and volunteer opportunities to enhance the experience for guests and volunteers.

### NEW TRAINING DATES ADDED:

- Wednesday, March 6th at 11:00am-12:00pm
- Thursday, March 14th at 6:00pm-7:00pm

Volunteers only need to attend one training.

Free Parking at the church.

Registration is not required, just show up!

### LOCATION:

FPA Day Center, inside of the First Baptist Church (355 Pulaski Street)

### AGENDA:

- Learn about the new shelter model
- Tour the Day Center
- Review the new shelter shift options





# Chicken Brunswick Stew



Gary Wall and a few helpers will be cooking Chicken Brunswick Stew on Saturday, March 16. Stew will be sold in quarts for \$10, but you must reserve your quarts by Sunday March 10 if you would like any stew. Gary and his helpers will only cook what has been pre-ordered.

If you would like to reserve your quarts of Chicken Brunswick Stew, you can sign up on the clipboard in the

Gathering Space or by calling Nickie in the church office. Stew will be available for pick-up on Saturday, March 16, from 3-4 PM. All of the profit will benefit Union Christian Church.

A graphic with a dark blue background and gold glitter borders at the top and bottom. The text is centered and reads:

*Melinda Lay & Reynolds Brown*  
Wedding Shower  
Sunday, March 3 • 2:00 PM  
<https://registry.theknot.com/melinda-lay-reynolds-brown-march-2024-ga/64668279>

## Elders' Meeting

Union's Elders will meet on Sunday, March 3, at 9:00 AM.

## Church Council

The Church Council will meet on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 PM.

## Disciples Men

Men, join us for the March breakfast meeting of the Disciples Men at Strickland's (4723 Atlanta Highway, Athens) on Saturday, March 2, at 8 AM. We have a wonderful time, and we would love to have you come and fellowship with us.



# Easter Food Box Distribution

Union will continue our Easter Food Box ministry in 2024! Our Easter distribution is very similar to our Thanksgiving distribution. Please have your box at the church by Sunday, March 17.

Below you will find a list of shopping items. Please prepare for a family of 5-6 people. If there are larger families, the church will add items to the box. Union will supply the ham or protein for each box.

We will distribute boxes on Sunday, March 24, from 3-5 PM. All ages are welcome and encouraged to help with distribution.

- Corn or Carrots (3 Cans)
- Green Beans (3 Cans)
- Sweet Potatoes (3 Cans)
- White Potatoes (Instant) (1 Box)
- Mac & Cheese (3 Boxes)
- Mini Marshmallows (1 Large Bag)
- Jello (Same Flavor) (2-3 Boxes)
- Canned Fruit (For Jello) (1-2 Cans)
- Dessert (Pie crust with chocolate pudding filling) (serving for at least 6 people)
- Bread/Biscuit (2-3 Mixes)
- Something that adds a personal touch to your box (optional)

## Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 14, at 9:30 AM. All of the ladies in the church are invited to join us.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for Family Promise of Athens. Together we collected a full car-load of items for this ministry.

During March, we will collect protein items for ACTS, Oconee's local foodbank. Needed protein items include, powdered milk, peanut butter, canned beans, beef stew, and canned meats like chicken. You can leave donations in the Gathering Space baskets.

Our special person for March is Betsy Peck. Her address is, 1261 Bouldercrest Circle; Watkinsville, GA 30677.





# Safety Minute

Did you know that Union Christian Church has an AED? What is an AED, you ask? An AED stands for Automated External Defibrillator; this device automatically diagnoses life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias. If necessary, the AED can deliver an electric shock, allowing the heart to re-establish an effective rhythm. In other words, it can save the life of a person suffering from a heart attack. Our AED is installed in a cabinet in the vestibule between the sanctuary and the Gathering Space. Union now has approximately 20 people trained in the use of our AED.



GriefShare is a support group for those grieving a death. Our spring session began on February 29, but you can join anytime! We meet on Thursdays through May 23. Join us in the Union Fellowship Hall, 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). You can also call the church office; we can help you get registered and answer any questions you may have about GriefShare.

## March Serving Calendar

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Donald Hansford	Julian Beckwith	Ken Clark	Jonathan Byrd	Alan Hickerson
<b>Elder</b>	Donald Hansford	Patsy Orr	Ken Clark	Jonathan Byrd	Alan Hickerson
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Lisa Sledge,</b> Lynn Chapman, Lisa Vaughn, Earl Lively	<b>Lisa Sledge,</b> Lanier Orr, Earl Lively, Sue Williams	<b>Kay Smith,</b> Sue Williams, Mary Brookshire, Ruth Cook	<b>Lindy Lively,</b> Lisa Vaughn, Ruth Cook, TBD	<b>Kay Smith,</b> Lynn Chapman, TBD, TBD
<b>Children's Church</b>	David & Jyoti Webb	Holly Green	Holly Green	Patti Clark	Angie Eades
<b>Children's Helper</b>	Betsy Peck	Jennifer Sangster	Kathy Peters	Holly Green	Patsy Orr
<b>Greeter</b>	Lynn Chapman	Sherica Dickens	Mary Brookshire	Kathy Peters	Amy Pritchett
<b>Sanctuary Prep</b>	Larry Allen	Ken Clark	Ken Clark	Jonathan Byrd	Larry Allen
<b>Safety Volunteer</b>	Larry Saul	Ken Clark	Larry Saul	Eric Sherrer	Phillip Maxey
<b>Children's Chat</b>	Patti Clark	Heather Webb	Angie Eades	Jonathan Byrd	Jonathan Byrd
	<b>March 5</b>	<b>March 12</b>	<b>March 19</b>	<b>March 26</b>	
<b>Meet/Greet Host</b>	Nan Deal	Evelyn Shelnut	Amy Pritchett	Julian Beckwith	

# YOUNG ADULT HANGOUT!

Movie Night  
Tuesday, March 19

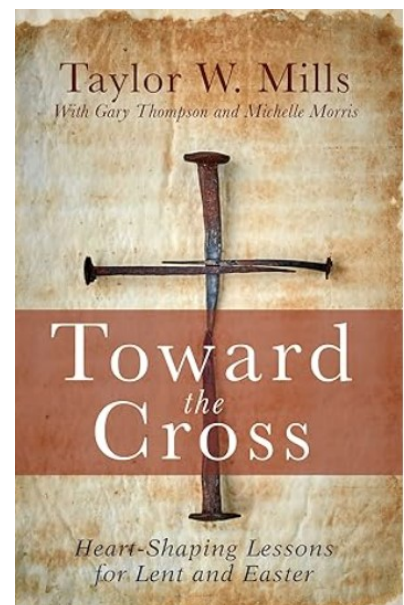


Young adults, in March, we will have a movie night. Make sure you are part of our text group so you will have the latest information. If you would like to join, you can contact the church office or Pastor Heather. Invite your friends to join the Union Young Adults for an epic cinematic experience on Tuesday, March 19!

## Lenten Soup and Study

We are in the midst of the Lenten season. As has been our custom, we are gathering in the Fellowship Hall on the Wednesdays of the season, at 5:30 PM, for a soup supper followed by a Lenten study. There is still plenty of time to join us; we will meet on March 6, 13, and 20.

This year we are using Taylor Mills' book, *Toward the Cross: Heart Shaping Lessons for Lent and Easter*, as we explore qualities and characteristics of Christian discipleship that lead us to claim Jesus as our highest priority. You do not need a book to attend the study, but if you would like to follow along, you can purchase a copy at Amazon or any other book retailer. The ISBN for the text is 9781791028947.



## Sign-Ups for Soup Supper

If you would like to sign up to help provide the soup supper for our weekly Lenten studies, check out the Union clipboard in the Gathering Space.

# Coming Up at Union!

## **GriefShare Spring Session**

Thursdays, 1:30-3:30 PM

## **Parent's Night Out**

March 1, 5:30-8:30 PM

## **Disciples Men's Breakfast**

March 2, 8:00 AM

## **Wedding Shower for Melinda Lay**

March 3, 2:00 PM

## **Lenten Soup and Study**

March 6, 5:30 PM

## **Lenten Soup and Study**

March 13, 5:30 PM

## **Christian Women's Fellowship**

March 14, 9:30 AM

## **Chicken Brunswick Stew**

### **Pre-Orders Only**

March 16, 3:00-4:00 PM

## **Easter Food Boxes Due**

Sunday, March 17

## **Young Adult Hangout**

March 19

## **Lenten Soup and Study**

March 20, 5:30 PM

## **Palm Sunday Worship**

March 24, 11:00 AM

## **Easter Food Box Distribution**

March 24, 3:00-5:00 PM

## **Maundy Thursday Service**

March 28, 6:30 PM

First Christian Church, Athens

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

March 30, 10:00 AM

## **Easter Sunrise Service**

March 31, 7:00 AM

## **Easter Sunday Worship**

March 31, 11:00AM

## **Fifth Sunday Benevolence Offering**

March 31

## **Union at ACTS**

April 26

## **Family Promise Host Week**

May 12-19

## **Cool Kids & Courageous Youth Final 2023-2024 School Year Meeting**

May 19

## **Vacation Bible School**

June 3-6

## **March Meetings**

### **Elders' Meeting**

March 3, 9:00 AM

### **Staff Meeting**

March 11, 10:30 AM

### **Finance Committee Meeting**

March 11, 11:00 AM

### **Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting**

March 17, 12:00 PM

### **Church Council Meeting**

March 21, 7:00 PM



## 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.



171st Christian Church (DOC) in Georgia

regional  
assembly

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

Vacation Bible School

Save the Date!

June 3-6

5:30-8:30 PM

Camp  
Firelight



A SUMMER CAMP

*Psalm 56:3*

ADVENTURE WITH GOD

# Financial Report, January 2024

By Earl Elsner, Treasurer



January Contributions	Contributions \$ 16,296	YTD Contributions \$206,973
January Expenses	Expenses \$ 16,318	YTD Expenses \$139,824
Total 2023-2024 Budget	\$207,842	

## **Cemetery**

Cemetery Permanent Fund Balance: \$272,467

## **Congregation Permanent Fund**

Congregation Permanent Fund Balance: \$392,900

## 2024 Camp Christian Work Days

March 16, 9:30 AM—3:30 PM

June 4, 9:30 AM—3:30 PM

June 5, 9:30 AM—3:30 PM

June 6, 9:30 AM—3:30 PM

If you are interested in joining us for one of the workdays, contact us at [campoffice@gadisciples.org](mailto:campoffice@gadisciples.org) for more details.



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

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGbNw855ksw>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-17KxpjL0Q&t=68s>

# Prayers of the People

## **Global Prayer:**

The work of medical ministries throughout the world.

## **Community Prayer:**

All of our local college students and their families.

## **Prayers for Health, Healing, and Care:**

Sharon Abbott (Chemotherapy)  
Ed Berry (High Shoals Rehab)  
Frank Baxter (Cancer)  
Mark Beach (Leukemia)  
Julian Beckwith (Surgery Recovery)  
Mimi Benkoski (Suffered Recent Falls)  
Myla Bennett  
Betty Benton (Hospitalized with COVID)  
Leon Boyce (Serious Car Accident)  
Pam Boyce (Health Issues)  
Mandie Boyce (Hospitalized)  
Billy Brackett (Hospitalized, Sepsis)  
Renee Brown (Rehab)  
Bonnie Butler  
Jonathan Byrd  
Annabelle Carter (Under Care for Seizures)  
Abel Cavin (2 year-old son with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns)  
Rainey Collis (2-Year-Old, Surgery Recovery, RSV)  
Zachary Cook  
Deb Cosgrove (Failing Health)  
Jen Crane (Gastroenteritis)  
Michael, Leah, Charlotte, and Juliette Crenshaw  
Eric David (Broken Pelvis, 7 Years Old)  
Jeannie Dawson (Pain in Legs has returned)  
Nan Deal  
Andra Dickens  
Devin Driskell (Recovery from Accident)  
Holley Downs  
Brice Eades (Surgery Recovery)  
Vicky Grey (Health Issues)  
Mary Hamby (Surgery Recovery)  
Brandy Harris (Health Concerns)  
Rick Hebert (Lung Cancer)  
Greg Hindmon (Surgery Recovery)  
Margaret Hogan (Cancer)  
Mahlon Holland (Transitioned to Assisted Living)  
Katelynn Hood (RSV)  
Shelly House (Anxiety and Depression)  
Nancy Huff (Hospitalized)  
Hannah Hunt (Upcoming Shoulder Surgery)  
Jamie Johnson (Surgery Recovery)  
Howard Karloff (Terminal Illness)  
Terry Karloff (Addiction)  
Adam Karloff  
Sari Karloff  
Johnny Lay (Health Concerns)  
John Leonard (Stomach Cancer)  
Brayden Lord (Resumed Cancer Treatments)  
Sean Mahan (Surgery Recovery)  
Gloria Manley (Surgery Recovery)  
Henry Maxey  
Jayne McCluskey (Skin Cancer)

Angela Madaras (Stage 4 Kidney Failure & Lupus)  
Margo McClain (Broken Hip)  
Evelyn McKenzie (Surgery Recovery)  
Maxine (Colon Cancer)  
Ann Meeler (Hospitalized, Stroke)  
Bailey Moore (Foster Family Needs)  
Rod Morgan  
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 Breast Cancer)  
Ricky Ray (Hospitalized, Health Concerns)  
Linda Rice (Lung Cancer Treatment)  
Sue Roach (Hospitalized)  
Lawson Saul (Recovery from Hospitalization)  
Kenneth Savage (Cancer)  
Juanda Scotland (Stroke)  
David Simpson (Lung Cancer)  
Carlton Shelton (Hospitalized, Health Concerns)  
Mary Short (Hospice)  
Billy Skinner (Cancer)  
Mickey Smith (Health Concerns)  
Zane Springer (Infant; Surgery Recovery)  
Ann Stephens (Hospitalized, Upcoming Surgery)  
Troy Tatum (ALS)  
Jacqueline Thomason  
Harry Tracy  
Reese Waddell (Recovering at Home)  
Patti Wagner (Scleroderma)  
Gene Wengert (Pancreatic Cancer)  
Cathie Wettlaufer  
Lanier Whitehead (Cancer)  
Ryan Woodworth (Shepherd Center)

## **Prayers for Those Who Mourn:**

The Family and Friends of Russell Lee  
The Family and Friends of Bob Baldwin  
The Family and Friends of Janice Faulker  
The Family and Friends of Laken Riley  
The Family and Friends of Wyatt Banks  
The Family and Friends of Grace Nash

## **Prayers for Our Military:**

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



# March 2024

SSunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:30 PM Parents Night Out	2 8:00 AM Disciples Men 10:00 AM Prayer Call
3 9 AM Elders' Meeting 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Wedding Shower	4  Jenna Hood	5 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet	6 5:30 PM Lenten Soup & Study 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir  Lanier Orr	7 1:30 PM GriefShare  Ray Tate	8  Dustin Wall	9 10:00 AM Prayer Call Set your clocks back before bed!
10 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Kids 5:00 PM Youth	11 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	12 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet	13 5:30 PM Lenten Soup & Study 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir  Susan Hancock Noah Whitehurst	14 1:30 PM GriefShare 10:00 AM CWF Meeting  Michael Brittian	15  Linda Dickens	16 10:00 AM Prayer Call
17 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Pastoral Relations Committee 4:00 PM Kids 5:00 PM Youth	18	19 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet Young Adult Hang Out  Wanda Maxey	20 5:30 PM Lenten Soup & Study 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir  Garrett Green	21 1:30 PM GriefShare 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting  Nancy Collins	22  Lisa Dawson	23 10:00 AM Prayer Call
24 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship 3:00-5:00 PM Easter Box Distribution	25	26 9:30 AM Crafts 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet	27 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir  Earl Elsner	28 1:30 PM GriefShare 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service (FCC, Athens)	29	30 10:00 AM Prayer Call 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt
31 7:00 AM Easter Sunrise (Potluck Breakfast) 11:00 AM Easter Worship						

Union Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1130 Union Church Rd.

Watkinsville GA 30677-4101

Union Christian Church

