



UNION  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Disciples of Christ

January 2024



**January 7**

*Rerouted: What's Next?*

Matthew 2:13-23



**January 14**

*ReNEWal*

*A New Revelation and a New Ministry*  
Mark 1:4-11; Psalm 29

**January 21**

*ReNEWal*

*A New Call and a New Vocation*  
Mark 1:14-20  
Rev. David Webb

**January 28**

*ReNEWal*

*A New Teaching and a New Life*  
Mark 1:21-28

# The Prayerful Pause

By Pastor Heather Webb



Happy New Year, Union Family!

Many folks make New Year's resolutions each January. You may want to eat a bit healthier or be more intentional about spending time with your family this year. You may want to exercise a little more or finally clean out all your closets and donate some things you don't need to charity this year. New Year's Resolutions can sometimes be a really good thing, but if we are honest with ourselves, we often abandon our resolutions by the time February rolls around.

**So, this year, instead of making a resolution, I want to invite you to prayerfully ask God some visioning questions for 2024 as you pray during January. Below are 10 suggested questions to ask God this month. As you pray, seek to listen and discover the new things he wants to do in and through you and us together in 2024.**

- Oh Lord, how do you want to grow me in grace, wisdom, or service this year?
- How do you want to enrich my life through Bible Study, fellowship, or worship this year?
- How do you want to grow my prayer life and draw me closer to you?
- How do you want to use me this year to share love and encouragement with those who need it most?
- What do you want me to subtract or add this year so that I might focus more on you?
- What do you want to teach me this year?
- What do you want me to share with others this year?
- What are your dreams for me? For my family?
- What are your dreams for Union Christian Church?
- What are your dreams for our community, and how might you want to use me and the Union Family to make those dreams a reality this year?

**Right from the start of this year, may we focus on how God works in our lives instead of what we can accomplish on our own. God is always doing something new, and we are invited to catch a glimpse of it daily as we seek his face in prayer.**

**Indeed, may God give us eyes to see and hearts that embrace the new things he wants to do in us, through us, and in our midst in 2024! I look forward to seeing all the ways God will grow and guide us this year!**

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

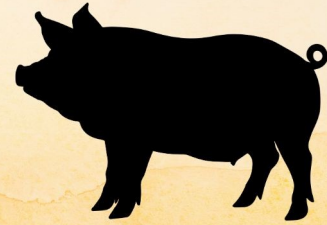
We will observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday  
on Monday, January 15.

OFFICE CLOSED

# YOUNG ADULT HANGOUT!



**Tuesday, January 30  
6:30 PM**



**JIM 'N NICK'S**  
COMMUNITY  
**BAR-B-Q**

Young adults, do not be bashful! Bring \$10 and come bond with us for a BBQ bash at Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q on Tuesday, January 30, at 6:30 PM. The address for these bodacious bites is 1787 Oconee Connector, Athens. Grab your bestie and come behold the bountiful feast.



GriefShare is a support group for those grieving the death of a family member or friend. Union held 2 sessions in 2023, filled with laughter and tears, support and encouragement. We are looking forward to our next session. Our spring session will meet each Thursday from February 29 through May 23. We meet in the Union Christian Church Fellowship Hall from 1:30—3:00 PM.

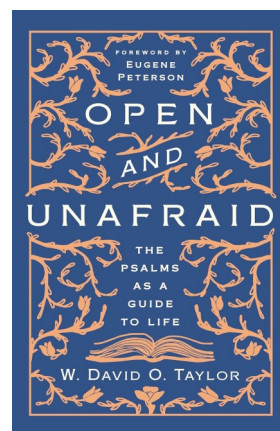
If you would like to join our group, you can register online at [www.griefshare.org/groups/180554](http://www.griefshare.org/groups/180554). You can also call the church office; we can help you get registered and answer any questions you may have about GriefShare.

If you know someone who may benefit from GriefShare, we will have flyers and handouts in the Gathering Space later this month to help you invite friends or family who may be interested.



## Winter Bible Study Groups

The book of Psalms has been central to God's people for millennia, across all walks of life and cultural contexts. In reading, we discover that we are never alone in our joys, sorrows, angers, doubts, praises, or thanksgivings. In it we learn about prayer and poetry, honesty and community, justice and enemies, life and death, nations and creation. Join Union for our upcoming Bible study groups as we delve into Psalms and access the bottomless resources for life that the book provides. We will use David Taylor's book, *Open and Unafraid: The Psalms as a guide to Life*.



Because the book of Psalms is so rich, we will also continue this study in our spring Bible study groups. We invite you to join us for the winter session, spring session, or both. You can sign up to join one of our groups and pick up your book in the Gathering Space, or call the church office to let us know you will attend.

- The Monday Women's Small Group will meet on Mondays at 6:00 PM, from January 8 to February 5. We will meet at Pastor Heather's home.
- The Wednesday Women's Small Group will meet on Wednesdays at 9:30 AM, from January 10 to February 7. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- The Wednesday Men's Small Group will meet on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM, from January 10 to February 7. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

## Disciples Men

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



## Elders' Meeting

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

## Church Council

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

## Bible Book of the Month: Psalms

Overview: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/psalms/>



## Courageous Youth & Cool Kids

Happy New Year!! We are excited about our spring events for Cool Kids and Courageous Youth! We look forward to meeting again on Sunday, January 7 for our regular meeting. Our Courageous Youth will travel to Epworth By the Sea on January 19– 21 for our annual Regional Youth Assembly. Look for more details soon from Mrs. Holly! Our January schedule for Cool Kids and Courageous Youth is below!

### **Sunday, January 7**

Regular Meeting

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

### **Sunday, January 14**

Regular Meeting

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

### **Sunday, January 21**

Courageous Youth at Epworth • No Meetings

### **Sunday, January 28**

Regular Cool Kid Meeting & Chili Cook Off

Cool Kids 4-5 PM • Courageous Youth Join in the Chili Cook Off at 5 PM

## Youth Assembly 2024

Union is excited to have 6 youth and 3 adults at the Regional Youth Assembly, January 19-21, at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island. This year's theme is "Tap in to God's Power." Please join us as we pray for our youth and adults Attending.

### **Youth**

Michael Brittan  
Cameron Brown  
Skylar Brown  
Nolan Debalski  
Melanie Pearson  
Jyoti Webb

### **Adults**

Holly Green  
Donald Hansford  
Heather Webb



## Second Annual Union Chili Cook Off

Union's reigning Chili Cook Off champions are Michael Nerroth (Most Creative Chili) and Pam Sherrer (Tastiest Chili). Do you think you have what it takes to take their place? Dig out your favorite chili recipe and get ready for some stiff competition! On Sunday, January 28, we will invite community judges to once again help us find Union's best chili. This will be a great time to enjoy a meal and fellowship together.

Later this month, we will have a sign-up sheet for those who would like to cook a pot of chili to enter the competition. If you would still like to contribute to our fellowship but do not want to cook chili, we will have a sign-up for desserts and fixin's like cornbread, cheese, and crackers.



## Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported our veteran recognition events for Veterans Day and Wreaths Across America Day. It is heartwarming to see so many members and neighbors who helped decorate the graves.

This ministry means so much to the Union family and to our community. We continue to hear from folks in and outside of the Union family who tell us how touching the ministry is for those involved and family members of veterans.

This year, Union decorated the graves of all 47 veterans in our cemetery. Additionally, over 1500 graves in Athens and Oconee were decorated, with over 700 graves decorated in Oconee Hills Cemetery, alone.

Thank you, Union!





## Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF will meet on Thursday, January 11, at 10:00 AM in the Union Fellowship Hall. All of the ladies in the church are invited to attend.

During January, the CWF is collecting money for Heifer International. Since 1944, Heifer International has provided farming families and communities around the world with the tools and resources they need to thrive, working to create long-term solutions to hunger and poverty. In past years, the Union family has donated money for animals and water wells. If you would like to donate, you can give money to Wanda Maxey or Jean Dawson. If your donation is in honor of memory of someone, we have donation cards in the Gathering Space.

The CWF special person for January is Ann Stephens. Her address is 801 Riverhill Drive; Apartment 506; Athens, GA 30606.



## January Serving Calendar

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28	
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Julia Beckwith	Patsy Orr	Evelyn Shelnutt	Alan Hickerson	
<b>Elder</b>	Annette Saul	Patsy Orr	Evelyn Shelnutt	Alan Hickerson	
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Lynn Chapman,</b> Lisa Vaughn, Mary Brookshire, Ruth Cook	<b>Earl Lively,</b> Lanier Orr, TBA, TBA	<b>Ryan Sledge,</b> Lindy Lively, TBA, TBA	<b>Lisa Vaughn,</b> Kay Smith, Ryan Sledge, TBA	
<b>Children's Church</b>	Holly Green	David & Jyoti Webb	Patti Clark	Angie Eades	
<b>Greeter</b>	Mary Brookshire	Sherica Dickens	Lynn Chapman	Earl Lively	
<b>Sanctuary Prep</b>	Ken Clark	Larry Allen	Ken Clark		
<b>Safety Volunteer</b>	Ken Clark	Philip Maxey	Leonard Williams	Lanier Orr	
<b>Children's Chat</b>	Heather Webb	Angie Eades	Patti Clark	Patsy Orr	
	<b>January 2</b>	<b>January 9</b>	<b>January 16</b>	<b>January 23</b>	<b>January 30</b>
<b>Meet/Greet Host</b>	Nan Deal	Evelyn Shelnutt	Amy Pritchett	Julian Beckwith	Annette Saul



# Family Promise Update

Please continue to pray for Family Promise of Athens (FPA). They are using a new hosting model in 2024; pray that the transition is smooth. Union's first host week of 2024 will be in February; we will have more details in the coming weeks.

La Tablé is the biggest fundraiser of the year for FPA. The 2024 invitation is below. Once again, Union is heading up the annual bake sale and clergy bake off. Union bakers if you would like to donate a favorite cake, contact Kelly Hansford or Patti Clark. Cakes will need to be non-refrigerated, and they should be at Union by 9:00 AM on Monday, February 5.

We are blessed to serve alongside you,

Kelly Hansford & Patti Clark



The La Table luncheon is a wonderful time for fellowship with friends, while gathering to learn more about the work of Family Promise in the community. This year the event will be held at 1055 Barber, an Epting event space, in order to accommodate a greater number of guests.

Registration from 11:00-11:30 AM

Table Viewing after 11:00 AM

Welcome at 12:00 PM

Luncheon at 12:15 PM

Learn more at

[www.familypromiseathens.org/events](http://www.familypromiseathens.org/events)

Tickets \$65 per guest

via cash/check to PO Box 581 Athens, GA 30603  
or online



# Coming Up at Union!

## **Disciples Men's Breakfast**

January 6, 8:00 AM

## **GriefShare Spring Session**

February 29-May 23

## **Christian Women's Fellowship**

January 11, 10:00 AM

## **Maundy Thursday**

March 28

## **Monday Women's Bible Study Begins**

January 8, 6:00 PM

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

March 30

## **Wednesday Women's Bible Study Begins**

January 10, 9:30 AM

## **Easter Sunday**

March 31

## **Wednesday Men's Bible Study Begins**

January 10, 5:00 PM

## **Spring Bible Studies Begin**

April 15 & 17

## **Christian Women's Fellowship**

January 11, 10:00 AM

## **Regional Youth Assembly**

January 19-21

## **January Meetings**

## **Intergenerational Chili Cook-Off**

January 28, 5:00 PM

## **Elders' Meeting**

January 7, 9:00 AM

## **Young Adult Hangout**

January 30, 6:30 PM

## **Staff Meeting**

January 8, 10:30 AM

## **Disciples Men's Breakfast**

February 3, 8:00 AM

## **Worship Committee Meeting**

January 9, 6:30 PM

## **Wedding Shower for Kendall Green**

February 3, 2:00 PM

## **By Law Committee Meeting**

January 11, 5:30 PM

## **Family Promise of Athens La Table**

February 6, 11:00 AM

## **Safety and Security Team Meeting**

January 14, 12:00 PM

## **Christian Women's Fellowship**

February 8, 10:00 AM

## **Permanent Fund Committee Meeting**

January 16, 6:30 PM

## **Ash Wednesday Service**

February 14, 6:30 PM

## **Church Council Meeting**

January 18, 7:00 PM

## **Lenten Soup and Study**

February 21-March 20

## **Deacons' Meeting**

January 21, 12:00 PM



# Prayers of the People

## Global Prayer:

Heifer International and all those struggling  
with poverty.

## Community Prayer:

Family Promise of Athens during their transition.

## Prayers for Health, Healing, and Care:

Japan as they recovery from an earthquake.  
Sharon Abbott (Chemotherapy)  
Jean Anderson (Hospitalized)  
Peggy & Bob Baldwin (Surgery Recovery, Friends of Pam Gunter)  
Ed Berry (High Shoals Rehab)  
Frank Baxter (Cancer)  
Mark Beach (Leukemia)  
Mimi Benkoski  
Myla Bennett  
Betty Benton (Mother of Ron Deal)  
Autumn Bishop (Breast Cancer)  
Leon Boyce (Serious Car Accident)  
Mandie Boyce (Hospitalized)  
Renee Brown (Rehab)  
Bonnie Butler (At Home Recovery)  
Jonathan Byrd  
Anabell Carter (Under Care for Seizures)  
Lynn Chapman  
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)  
Nan Deal  
Devin Driskell (Recovery from Accident)  
Holley Downs  
Brice Eades (Upcoming Surgery, January 10)  
Carbie Epps (Health Issues)  
Vicky Grey (Health Issues)  
Brandy Harris (Health Concerns)  
Rick Hebert (Lung Cancer Treatments)  
Drew Hogan (Surgery Recovery)  
Margaret Hogan (Cancer)  
Mahlon Holland (Transitioned to Assisted Living)  
Shelly House (Anxiety and Depression)  
Nancy Huff (Hospitalized)  
Heather Jacobson (Stroke)  
Howard Karloff (Terminal Illness)  
Terry Karloff (Addiction)  
Adam Karloff  
Sari Karloff  
John Leonard (Stomach Cancer)  
Michaelyn Loper (Stage 4 Breast Cancer)  
Ann Lord (Health Concerns)  
Brayden Lord (Stage 4 Hodgkin Lymphoma)  
Greg Manley (Surgery Recovery)  
Maxey Family (Concerns)  
Jayne McCluskey (Skin Cancer)  
Evelyn MacKenzie (Upcoming Surgery)  
Angela Madaras (Declining Health)  
Sean Mahan (Advanced Pancreatic Cancer)  
Margo McClain (Broken Hip)  
Charlie (Hospice) and Pat McClure

Elaine McTyre (Surgery Recovery)  
Maxine (Colon Cancer)  
Bailey Moore (Foster Family Needs)  
Rod Morgan  
Kaaren Mosley (Stroke, Cancer Treatment)  
Albert Munguia (Addiction Issues)  
Grace Nash (Breast Cancer)  
David Nelson (Hospitalized)  
Annette Nesler (Awaiting Transplant)  
Jason Oliver (Heart Surgery Recovery)  
Gunner Patterson (3-Year-Old, Medical Issues)  
Greg Peck  
Johnny Pritchett (Encouragement)  
Margie Provost (Complications from Cancer Surgery)  
Linda Rice (Lung Cancer)  
Lawson Saul (Father of Larry Saul)  
David Simpson (Lung Cancer)  
Mary Short (Hospice)  
Billy Skinner (Cancer)  
Eloise Slaton  
Chip and Debbie Smergian  
Zane Springer (Upcoming Procedures and Surgery)  
Ann Stephens (Broken Pelvis)  
Randall Tackett (Bone Cancer)  
Troy Tatum (ALS)  
Jacqueline Thomason (Adjustment)  
Harry Tracy  
Sue Truluck (Surgery Recovery)  
David Vaughn  
Jane Vaughn  
Reese Waddell (Recovering at Home)  
Patti Wagner (Scleroderma)  
Gene Wengert (Pancreatic Cancer)  
Cathie Wettlaufer  
Catherine Wettlaufer (Recovering at Home)  
Lanier Whitehead (Cancer)  
Boyd Wiley (Cancer Treatments)  
Sue Williams (Surgery Recovery)  
Mike (Health Concerns) and Judy Zech (Caregiving)

## Prayers for Those Who Mourn:

The Family and Friends of Grady Glenn  
The Family and Friends of Eddie Garrett  
The Family and Friends of Drew McSwain  
The Family and Friends of Jack Nunn  
The Billingsley Family in the loss of their daughter.  
The Family and Friends of Rae Skinner  
The Family and Friends of Jackson Jones

## Prayers for Our Military:

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

# January 2023

SSunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet  Larry Gunter	3 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	4	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 4:00 PM Kids 5:15 PM Youth	8 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study  David Webb	9 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet 6:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting  Maya Allen Pam Sherrer	10 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	11 10:00 AM CWF Meeting 5:30 PM By- Law Review Committee	12	13 10:00 AM Prayer Call   Hal Tatum
14 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Safety & Security Team Meeting 4:00 PM Kids 5:15 PM Youth  Lisa Sledge	15 MLK Holiday Office Closed 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	16 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:00 PM Permanent Fund Meeting 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet	17 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	18 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	19 Regional Youth Assembly	20 Regional Youth Assembly 10:00 AM Prayer Call   Rose Mary Martin
21 Regional Youth Assembly 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Deacons' Meeting	22 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	23 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet	24 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir  Melanie Tate	25   Gavin Ruark	26	27 10:00 AM Prayer Call
28 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Kids 5:00 PM Chili Cook Off	29 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study  Scarlett Fitzgerald	30 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet 6:30 PM Young Adult Hangout	31 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir			

Union Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1130 Union Church Rd.

Watkinsville GA 30677-4101

Union Christian Church

