



**UNION**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Disciples of Christ

November 2023



**November 5**

**All Saints Sunday**

*Good Gifts: Cheerleaders and Saints*  
Hebrews 11:32-12:3

**November 19**

*Good Gifts:*

*Transformation and Gratitude*  
Luke 17:11-19

**November 12**

*Good Gifts: A Greater Love*  
John 15:12-17

**November 26**

*Good Gifts: The Body of Christ*  
Romans 12:1-10



## Fall Back

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 5.  
Set your clocks back 1 hour before bed on Saturday!

## All Saints Sunday

Join us in worship at 11 AM on November 5, as we remember the saints who have gone before us. If you would like to recognize someone who has played an important part in your life, please contact Pastor Heather.



# The Prayerful Pause

By Pastor Heather Webb



November is here, and Thanksgiving will soon be upon us. We have so much to be thankful for every day! **During November, I want to encourage you to spend some time prayerfully reflecting on the many ways God has blessed Union in 2023. Here is a short list of things we can thank God for as a church family this Thanksgiving!**

- Thank God for the worship, fellowship, and service that fills our lives with joy as we seek to follow Christ together!
- We've welcomed five new members by transfer of letter in 2023: David Lovell, Madison and Adam Fitzgerald, and Pam and Larry Gunter. We've welcomed 2 new members by baptism, Noah Whitehurst and Cora Sledge. We've also welcomed several new active participants into the community this year!
- We've had several opportunities to reach out to young families in our community through Fall Family Fun Night, Vacation Bible School, Parents Night Out, and the Easter Egg Hunt. God has graciously grown our Ministry to Children and Youth over the last year as well!
- God continues to use our GriefShare Ministry, providing comfort and care for the participants through our extraordinary leaders. God has even grown this ministry, allowing us to partner with our friends at Presbyterian Village to host a safelight group this fall.
- Our Young Adult Hangout Group continues to be an excellent way for our young folks to stay connected and find an outlet for Christian fellowship.
- In addition to Sunday School, we offered 3 small group Bible Studies, 2 groups for women and 1 group for men, in the winter, spring, and fall. We've seen participants in the women's Bible Studies from the wider community. We also had a meaningful Soup and Study during Lent.
- Our Disciples Men spent a day serving at Camp Christian last spring, and they just held a dinner to enjoy fellowship and learn more about the ministry of ACTS.
- Many volunteers in the church family regularly serve with ACTS, and we are thankful for their support of this life-giving ministry.
- Our Tuesday morning craft group has made 1,435 fleece comfort pillows to encourage people undergoing medical treatments. They are now diligently working on some amazing new Chrismons for our Sanctuary Tree!
- Union has spent 4 weeks providing meals and serving as hosts to support Family Promise of Athens, with a fifth week on the horizon in December.
- Your giving to our Fifth Sunday Benevolence Offerings has helped families in need in our local community 31 times this year. You've also shared 40 Easter Food boxes, and we plan to share around 50 food boxes with families this Thanksgiving.
- You've generously given supplies and money to support 12 different Christian Women's Fellowship Projects throughout the year, impacting families in our community and around the world.

**Indeed, we have much to be thankful for as a church family! I hope you will spend some time this month thanking God for all these good gifts in our life and ministry together!**

# VETERANS DAY

## Cemetery Workday

In preparation for Veterans Day, we plan to clean and decorate the graves of the 44 veterans in our cemetery. Union members are encouraged to join in this special work on Saturday, November 4, at 10:00 A.M.

## Veterans Recognition

On Sunday, November 12, Union will have our annual recognition of veterans as a part of the worship service. Pictures of our veterans will be scrolling on the screen in the Gathering Space; please take a minute to pause and thank God for their service and pray for the safety of those still on active duty.

## Disciples Men

Men, join us for the November breakfast meeting of the Disciples Men at Strickland's (4723 Atlanta Highway, Athens) on Saturday, November 4, at 8 AM. We have a wonderful time, and we would love to have you come and fellowship with us.



## Thanksgiving Holiday

The church office will be closed November 22—23, for Thanksgiving. We will resume normal office hours on Monday, November 27.



You can join Union's fall GriefShare session at any time. This fall, we meet on Thursdays, from 1:30—3:30 PM, through November 16. Join by registering online or calling the church office. <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/168289>.

## Elders' Meeting

Union's Elders will meet on Sunday, November 5, at 9:00 AM.

## Church Council

The Church Council will meet on Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 PM.

## Bible Book of the Month: Luke

Video Overview: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb\\_dCIxsr0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dCIxsr0)





## Courageous Youth & Cool Kids

We are looking forward to a great and busy November for our Cool Kids and Courageous Youth! We have several opportunities for service projects this month as well. Here's a look at our calendar:

### **Sunday, November 5**

Regular Meeting (Snack Supper-Ken Clark)  
Cool Kids 4:00-5:15 PM • Courageous Youth 5:00 – 6:15 PM

### **Sunday, November 12**

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party  
Cool Kids 4:00-5:15 PM • Courageous Youth 5:00 – 6:15 PM

### **Sunday, November 19**

Helping with the Union Thanksgiving Box Distribution  
Children and Youth are welcome to join from 4:00 - 6:00 PM

### **Sunday, November 26**

Showtime Bowl (Macon Highway, Athens) Bring \$10  
Cool Kids 4:00-5:00 PM • Courageous Youth 5:00 – 6:00 PM

I will be sending out more specific details for any changes outside of our normal meetings. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your support of our Cool Kids and Courageous Youth at Union!!



Young adults, join us for "Friendsgiving" at the Webb home on Tuesday, November 9, at 6:00 PM. Bring a friend and come fellowship with us!

Thank you, Union Elders, for providing and sharing this meal with our young adults. Young adults, be sure to thank our elders for their good home-cooking!



## Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF will meet on Thursday, November 9, at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All of the ladies in the church are invited to attend.

This month, we will finish our collection of items for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Union's children and youth will pack the items into shoeboxes on November 12. Suggested items to include are on the Operation Christmas Child website: [www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/)

The CWF encourages everyone to join with the Union Family in our annual Thanksgiving Box Ministry.

The CWF special person for November is Mont Shelnutt. His address is 2581 New High Shoals Road, Bishop, GA 30621.

## Financial Report, September 2023

By Earl Elsner, Treasurer

	Contributions	YTD Contributions
September Contributions	\$ 18,953	\$ 90,221
	Expenses	YTD Expenses
September Expenses	\$ 20,457	\$ 62,459
Total 2023-2024 Budget	\$207,842	

### Cemetery

Cemetery Permanent Fund Balance: \$302,928

### Congregation Permanent Fund

Congregation Permanent Fund Balance: \$396,233



**Stewardship**  
*a way of life*

## October Serving Calendar

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Alan Hickerson	Annette Saul	Jonathan Byrd	Patsy Orr
<b>Elder</b>	Alan Hickerson	Annette Saul	Jonathan Byrd	Evelyn Shelnutt
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Lisa Vaughn,</b> Kay Smith, Lynn Chapman, Sue Williams	<b>Betsy Peck,</b> Lanier Orr, Sue Williams, Phillip Maxey	<b>Ruth Cook,</b> Mary Brookshire, Peter Cook, Lynn Chapman	<b>Kay Smith,</b> Lynn Chapman, Phillip Maxey, TBA
<b>Children's Church</b>	Angie Eades	David & Jyoti Webb	Holly Green	Patti Clark
<b>Greeter</b>	Lynn Chapman	Kathy Peters	Mary Brookshire	Evelyn Shelnutt
<b>Sanctuary Prep</b>	Jonathan Byrd	Ken Clark	Jonathan Byrd	Ken Clark
<b>Safety Volunteer</b>	Ken Clark	Eric Sherrer	Leonard Williams	Ken Clark
<b>Children's Chat</b>	Angie Eades	Patsy Orr	Jonathan Byrd	Patti Clark
	<b>November 7</b>	<b>November 14</b>	<b>November 21</b>	<b>November 28</b>
<b>Meet/Greet Host</b>	Nan Deal	Evelyn Shelnutt	Amy Pritchett	Julian Beckwith

# Family Promise Update

We are ending the year with a full Family Promise schedule. Mark your calendars for a benefit piano concert by Ken Medema on Sunday, November 12, in the sanctuary of Milledge Avenue Baptist Church. A suggested donation of \$10 per attendee is appreciated. Donations may be made at the door by cash, check or card. All proceeds from "ticket" sales go directly to FPA.



Our final host week of 2023 at Milledge Ave. Baptist Church is December 3 - 10. Regular volunteers, be on the lookout for a signup email coming in the next weeks.

Save the date for La Tablé, FPA's largest fundraiser, on Tuesday, February 6, from 11:00 AM—1:00 PM. The event is changing to a new, larger venue since we have outgrown the Athens Country Club. The 2024 La Tablé will be held at 1055 Barber, Lee Epting's new event space in Athens. Union and our support congregations hope to fill two tables. Kelly and Patti will once again coordinate the Silent Auction Bake Sale and Clergy Bake-off. In 2024, FPA will celebrate 20 years of working to support local families with children who are facing or experiencing the crisis of homelessness.

For 2024 we will once again be practicing **flexibility** as our hosting model is changing again. Being flexible has served us very well since we began volunteering and supporting Family Promise of Athens. The 2024 FPA Shelter Plan is explained below this article. We do not expect switching hosting models to be an exact science. We understand that timelines are approximate and many puzzle pieces have to fall into place for the transition to happen. Like we have done so well in the past, **we will be flexible and modify** as the situations dictate. Please include FPA in your prayers as we seek God's guidance on how we can best serve our neighbors facing homelessness.

## FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING PLAN 2024

### FPA Shelter 2020-2023

Since the Pandemic, Family Promise has worked to adapt our shelter program in order to continuously serve families experiencing homelessness. For the past 3 years, the program has been run using a static shelter site, primarily at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church.

Since 2020, the number of host congregations has decreased from 17 to 11, increasing the number of open weeks each year to 10 weeks, where FPA staff work to get volunteers to fill open slots. Filling all 26 slots a week has become increasingly difficult, and we foresee losing at least 1 additional congregation in 2024. With the changing times, FPA must adapt to continue to best serve families and provide meaningful volunteer opportunities. At the end of 2023, we will close the MABC shelter location. Until then, we will work diligently to find stable housing for current guests, and we will work on cleaning and moving out our items from the space.

### FPA Plans for 2024

The new shelter location will be 158 and 164 Magnolia Terrace. These units are currently used as FPA transitional housing units. Using these units will provide families with their own space and allow them to learn important rental skills like cleaning and maintenance. We believe that this approach will better equip families to transition to the private market.

## **FPA Plans for 2024 Continued**

We plan to fundraise \$150,000 in 2024 to renovate a duplex next door to these units to increase the number of families we can serve. Fundraising is currently underway.

### **Congregation and Volunteer Involvement**

We believe that congregational and volunteer involvement is still an imperative part of this new shelter model. We want volunteer opportunities with this new approach to better match the wants of volunteers with the needs of families. There will still be host weeks for each congregation, but the volunteer opportunities will be different. We will no longer ask volunteers to monitor the location or sleep overnight. Instead, there will be a spectrum of activities to meet the different desires of each congregation. Prior to your host week, you will receive a menu of options, and your congregation can fulfill as many of the needs as you are able.

### **What will be the opportunities for volunteering in 2024?**

**During your congregation's host week, you will be given the opportunity to:**

- Provide a grocery or rideshare gift card to the families (\$25 per person)
- Provide household/hygiene supplies to the families
- Provide family needs (work boots for a new job, backpacks for school etc.)
- Bring a meal or cook a meal with the families (two meal slots per week)
- Plan a children's activity for the kids (Read a book or help with homework)
- Take the families to a movie night at the theater
- Host the families at your church for a group activity
- Host an activity based on the season (pumpkin carving, Easter egg hunt, etc.)
- Mentoring opportunities with parents (financial literacy, resume building)
- Van Driving for an afternoon (help with appointments: DMV, housing, interviews)

### **How will we keep the units safe and clean?**

- Each unit will have front and backdoor cameras
- No outside guests will be allowed in the units, Tenaja will monitor cameras
- Units will be subject to one unannounced cleanliness check a week by Clyde
- Families will meet twice a week at the unit with Tenaja for case management

### **What services will Family Promise staff provide to families?**

- Families will have a 4-month maximum in the unit
- Families will actively participate in case management
- Families will receive referrals and access to additional agencies as needed
- Families will be signed up for all eligible government benefits
- Families will receive help with the housing search

## **Thanksgiving Offering**

The Christian Church (DOC) collects a yearly Thanksgiving Offering to support to Disciples colleges, universities, and theological institutions. Gifts from the offering continue a Disciples tradition of developing leaders for communities and the church. You can find out more online at [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org). You can drop envelopes in the offering plate on Sunday mornings throughout the month of November.





# Thanksgiving Food Boxes

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and Union Christian Church is providing Thanksgiving boxes for families this holiday Season. Counselors at Oconee County Schools have helped us identify families who are in need this Thanksgiving. We hope you will sign up to fill 1-2 boxes. You can pick up an instruction sheet and prayer guide when you sign up. Union will supply the turkey to complete your box. All boxes are due on November 12. We hope that you will sign up and help Union to bless our community in a big way this Thanksgiving.



## Thanksgiving Box Distribution

Union will distribute Thanksgiving Boxes on Sunday, November 19, and we will need volunteers to help show God's love. If you are available to help on November 19, please contact the church office or Kay Smith.

## Permanent Fund News

Union is blessed to have the Congregational Permanent Fund to support ongoing ministry and missions in the local area and beyond. The Congregational Permanent Fund policy determines the percentage of investment income available for annual distribution. The Permanent Fund Committee is charged with fund oversight and also with developing a recommendation to the Church Council about which ministry organizations and missions projects to support.

The Permanent Fund Committee will be developing the 2023-2024 funding recommendations during the next few months. At this time, the Church Council has approved \$20,000 for distribution.

We request your assistance to identify ministry organizations and mission projects for funding consideration. This is an opportunity for Union to dream about how we can best share God's love with those in need. If you would like to suggest a missions-oriented organization or project, please pick up a Permanent Fund Grant Request in the Gathering Space or church office. Contact Julia Beckwith, Permanent Fund Committee Chair, if you have any questions.

We are a blessed church, known for caring for others. Let's share God's love beyond our walls together!





# Coming Up at Union!

## **Craft Group**

Tuesdays, 9:30 AM

## **GriefShare Fall Session**

Thursdays, 1:30 PM

## **Disciples Men's Breakfast**

November 4, 8:00 AM

## **Veteran's Flag Placement**

November 4, 10:00 AM

## **All Saints Sunday**

November 5

## **Christian Women's Fellowship**

November 9, 10:00 AM

## **Young Adult Friendsgiving**

November 9, 6:00 PM

## **Veterans' Sunday**

November 12

## **Last GriefShare Fall Session**

Thursday, November 16, 1:30 PM

## **Thanksgiving Box Distribution**

November 19

## **Disciples Men's Breakfast**

December 2, 8:00 AM

## **Family Promise Host Week**

December 3-10

## **Hanging of the Greens**

December 3, 11:00 AM

## **Monday Small Group Fellowship**

December 4, 6:00 PM

## **Wednesday Women's Fellowship**

December 6, 10:00 AM

## **Wednesday Men's Fellowship**

December 6, 5:30 PM

## **Young Adult Hangout**

December 12, 6:00 PM

## **Christian Women's Fellowship**

December 14, 10:00 AM

## **Webb Open House**

December 16

## **Special Music Worship Service**

December 17

## **Blue Christmas Service**

December 20, 6:00 PM

## **ACTS Volunteer Day**

December 22, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

## November Meetings

### **Elders' Meeting**

November 5, 9:00 AM

### **Columbarium Committee**

November 5, 12:00 PM

### **By-Law Review Committee**

November 7, 6:00 PM

### **Staff Meeting**

November 13, 10:30 AM

### **Worship Committee Meeting**

November 14, 6:30 PM

### **Church Council**

November 16, 7:00 PM

### **Personnel Committee Meeting**

November 27, 10:00 AM



# Prayers of the People

## Global Prayer:

Please pray for peace in the Middle East and for all those experiencing the horrors of terrorism and war.

## Community Prayer:

Thanksgiving Box Families

## Prayers for Health, Healing, and Care:

Sharon Abbott (Chemotherapy)  
Wendy Alligood (Hospice)  
Jean Anderson (Hospitalized)  
Mattelyn Atkinson and Family (Physical Therapy)  
Ed Berry (High Shoals Rehab)  
Frank Baxter (Cancer)  
Mark Beach (Leukemia)  
Mimi Benkoski  
Myla Bennett (Pruitt Heritage)  
Betty Benton (Mother of Ron Deal)  
Autumn Bishop (Breast Cancer)  
Leon Boyce (Serious Car Accident)  
Mandie Boyce (Hospitalized)  
Vivian Brookshire (Ear Surgery Recovery)  
Milton Brown (Cancer)  
Renee Brown (Rehab)  
Bonnie Butler (At Home Recovery)  
Jonathan Byrd  
Anabell Carter (Under Care for Seizures)  
Lynn Chapman  
Rainey Collis (2-Year-Old, Kidney Issues)  
Zachary Cook (Grandson of Ruth Cook)  
Deb Cosgrove (Failing Health)  
Michael, Leah, Charlotte, and Juliette Crenshaw  
Zaleigh Crosby (5-Year-Old with Heart Problems)  
Eric David (Broken Pelvis, 7 Years Old)  
Nan Deal  
Devin Driskell (Recovery from Accident)  
Holley Downs  
Carbie Epps (Health Issues)  
Vicky Grey (Health Issues)  
Brandy Harris (Health Concerns)  
Rick Hebert (Lung Cancer Treatments)  
Margaret Hogan (Cancer)  
Mahlon Holland (Transitioned to Assisted Living)  
Shelly House (Anxiety and Depression)  
Nancy Huff (Hospitalized)  
Heather Jacobson (Stroke)  
Jackson and Shirley Jones (Health Concerns)  
Howard Karloff (Terminal Illness)  
Terry Karloff (Addiction)  
Adam Karloff  
Sari Karloff  
Jackie Kidd (Caregiving)  
John Leonard (Stomach Cancer)  
Michaelyn Loper (Stage 4 Breast Cancer)  
Ann Lord (Health Concerns)  
Brayden Lord (Stage 4 Hodgkin Lymphoma)  
Evelyn MacKenzie (Torn Rotator Cuff)  
Angela Madaras (Kidney Failure & Lupus)  
Sean Mahan (Advanced Pancreatic Cancer)  
Gregory Manely (Abdominal Pain)  
Maxey Family (Concerns)  
Margo McClain (Broken Hip)

Elaine McTyre (Surgery Recovery)  
Maxine (Colon Cancer)  
Bailey Moore (Foster Family Needs)  
Rod Morgan  
Kaaren Mosley (Stroke, Cancer Treatment)  
Albert Munguia (Addiction Issues)  
Larry N.  
David Nelson (Hospitalized)  
Annette Nesler (Awaiting Transplant)  
Jason Oliver (Heart Surgery Recovery)  
Gunner Patterson (3-Year-Old, Medical Issues)  
Greg Peck (Son of Betsy Peck)  
Johnny Pritchett (Encouragement)  
Margie Provost (Breast Cancer)  
Linda Rice (Lung Cancer)  
Lawson Saul  
Phil Shelton (Julia Beckwith's Father)  
David Simpson (Lung Cancer)  
Billy Skinner (Cancer)  
Rae Skinner (Cancer)  
Eloise Slaton  
Chip and Debbie Smergian (Rehab)  
Hazel Smith (Health Concerns)  
Kay Smith (Upcoming Eye Surgeries in November)  
Zane Springer (Upcoming Surgery)  
Ann Stephens  
Randall Tackett (Bone Cancer)  
Troy Tatum (ALS)  
Harry Tracy  
Sue Truluck (Surgery Recovery)  
David Vaughn  
Reese Waddell (Recovering at Home)  
Patti Wagner (Scleroderma)  
Gene Wengert (Pancreatic Cancer)  
Cathie Wettlaufer  
Catherine Wettlaufer (Recovering at Home)  
Lanier Whitehead (Cancer)  
Christine Whiting and Family  
Boyd Wiley (Cancer Treatments)

## Prayers for Those Who Mourn:

The Family and Friends of Bonnie Dillard  
The Family and Friends of Nina Jeanne Westbrook  
The Family and Friends of Gwen Carson  
The Family and Friends of Freda Roberts  
The Family and Friends of Tony Bryant

## Prayers for Our Military:

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

# November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	2 1:30 PM GriefShare  Cole Tate Connor Tate	3 Carpet Cleaning in Fellowship Hall	4 8:00 AM Disciples Men 10:00 AM Prayer Call 10:00 AM Veteran's Day Flag Placement Pam Gunter
5 9 AM Elders' Meeting 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM All Saints Sunday 12 PM Columbarium Meeting 4:00 PM Youth & Kids  Elizabeth Bell Harrison Clark Sue Truluck	6	7 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:00 PM By-Law Review Committee 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet	8 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	9 10:00 AM CWF Meeting 1:30 PM GriefShare 6:00 PM Young Adult Hangout Friendsgiving	10	11 10:00 AM Prayer Call
12 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship— Veteran's Sunday 4:00 PM Youth & Kids	13 10:30 AM Staff Meeting  Bob Barker Bonnie Butler Donald Maxey Mont Shelnutt	14 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet 6:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting  David Lovell Brett Strickland	15 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	16 1:30 PM GriefShare 7:00 PM Church Council	17  Alan Thomas	18 10:00 AM Prayer Call
19 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00PM Thanksgiving Box Distribution	20	21 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet	22 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	23	24	25 10:00 AM Prayer Call  Leah Crenshaw
26 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Youth & Kids Bowling	27 10:00 AM Personnel Committee Meeting  Madison Fitzgerald Eric Sherrer	28 9:30 AM Craft Group 6:30 PM All-Church Meet & Greet  Nancy Halligan	29 6:30 PM Praise Band 7:00 PM Choir	30  Adam Fitzgerald		



**Union Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

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Union Christian Church

