

Happy Birthday!

April 03 Rickey Weatherman

April 04 Rex Nichols

April 11 Nicky Walsh

April 16 Doug McClure

April 19 Melinda Marsh

Happy Anniversary!

April 08 Burl & Janice Hamby

April 28 Doug & Linda McClure



The Union Messenger

Union United Methodist Church

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Pastor Share

Like many of us, Anna and I put down new mulch and pine bark nuggets every year around the first of April. Every year we estimate how many bags or loads of these items we'll need. Every year we add several bags to our total because the previous year we didn't buy enough the first time. And yes, every year we still don't get enough the first time. This year was no exception. I suppose there's some economic term or formula about this yearly game we seem to be playing with the perceived need of this material, the time it will take to complete the task, and the cost of purchasing these items. I don't know what that formula is, but I know when we're finished I'm glad we don't have to go through this ritual again till next year. I think Easter is a lot like that. God sees our need to be forgiven. Try as we might, we never seem to get everything right the first time. If you're like me, we very rarely get everything right the second, third, or seventy-seventh time. But God still loves us. God sees our time as well. He knows how long it will take us to complete our task in this world. We don't know that measure of time. But God's love is constant and available at all times. And as hard as it is to estimate the cost of things in this world, the price God paid for our salvation is priceless. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." There's a name for this formula - grace. We need God's grace. God's grace is a constant and forever love that is always available. God's grace, through Jesus Christ, is truly priceless. Anna and I hope you have a wonderful Easter. We pray that God's grace covers you and protects you and reminds you of God's love for you. - Pastor Randy



God's Work Our Hands

Church Clean Up Day!

Come join us on Saturday, April 11th at 9am to help give the church a good old fashioned "spring cleaning." A list of different areas that need attention has been prepared so we can divide and conquer!

We will have cleaning supplies on hand (*paper towels, Windex, bathroom cleaner, furniture polish, etc.*) You are welcome to bring old cleaning rags, extra brooms, mops, and a joyful spirit!

Let's beautify God's House Together!



There is still time if you have any slightly used items you would like to donate to our church yard sale / fundraiser. You can drop them off on Tuesdays and Thursdays (*call ahead to make sure Pastor Randy will be here*). To allow time for pricing and organizing, we would like to ask that all donations be here on or before Saturday, April 11th. Also, we could use some clothes hangars if you have any you could donate to the cause. A special thank you to Gary & Ann Elrod and Wesley & Kim Dancy for all the time and effort they have put into planning and organizing our yard sale!

Our yard sale is not just a fundraiser, but a ministry opportunity—a way to bless our community with affordable items while funding God's work!

*First Chicken-Que
of 2026*



Saturday, April 25th

As we kick off another year of chicken ques, let's look back at some statistics we had in our November 2024 Newsletter. The fourth Saturday of every month from April through October, our little church comes together to chop and mix ingredients for approximately 155 gallons of slaw, bake at least 224 pound cakes, make 53 gallons of BBQ sauce, cook 252 gallons of green beans and grill approximately 5,000 pounds of chicken. From that, we prepare and sell approximately 3,325 plates and interact with over 1,000 (*approximately 150 per month*) members of our community, many of whom have been faithful customers of our chicken ques for years!.

Another interesting fact that is that it takes approximately 120 man hours from start to finish to do one chicken-que so that means 840 man hours are invested over the 7 chicken-ques each year. This doesn't include the time our ladies spend making all those delicious pound cakes which is probably another 450 hours each year!

Wow! That is a lot of information—and involves a lot of hard work! But more importantly it represents that though we are few in numbers, by the power of serving with a joyful heart for the good of the church and God, we can accomplish much! Over the 50 plus years of doing chicken ques, we have become much like a well oiled machine; when someone can't be here for whatever reason, the Lord sends us someone to take their place! When a storm (*like Helene in September 2024*) shows up in the middle of slaw and BBQ sauce day, the power works in places we need it, the bread store closes just as we arrive to pick up our rolls, Mays Meats makes it through the storm to deliver our chicken.... God made the way for us to have our chicken que and serve our community, many of whom were without power and welcomed that hot meal on Saturday!

Over the next couple of weeks we will be asking for volunteers to bake pound cakes (*usually takes at least 32 cakes per chicken-que, but some of our customers love when we have extras they can buy!*), clean up and prep work the week before (*hopefully we will take care of this during our church clean up day on 4/11*), making slaw on Friday, 4/24, helping on Saturday morning either at the pit and/or in the kitchen, cooking beans, preparing plates and so much more! As everyone knows, this is a real team effort and a lot of hard work, but it is also a wonderful time of fellowship within our church and community. We take great pride in our chicken plates and look forward to another successful season!

Even if you are unable to bake a cake or work, please come join us to share in the joy and fellowship we share!