

# The Newsletter

## VISION STATEMENT

Together we will create an atmosphere where people experience God's love.

## Words From Your Lead Pastor...



## Dear Friends & Members,

Looking back at 2020: this heated, divisive election year and the worst world-wide pandemic in over 100 years, I am grateful for the things I've learned. I want to share one of them with you. We all had such strong opinions about what was fake news and what was the truth. We let it divide our country and sometimes damage relationships.

We will be known for our opinions (Facebook, etc.), but we will be remembered for our love. That's what will mater in the end. The love we leave behind is our legacy. At the end of our lives, what people who knew us will miss the most will be the small ways we loved the people around us. That's true of our life together here at Union also.

The memories we made and the mess-ups we walked through together. Our kindness and caring, not our qualifications will outlast us. Our love in action and the lives we touched with a coat on a cold night, a meal and food to go for a hopeless stranger, a place to lay down, a helping hand, hope in a dark world for many who had been turned away in a hundred different places.

Don't forget what will matter in the end. The love we leave behind is our legacy. Let's do great things together with the time, talent and treasure God has trusted us with.

*God Bless You!*

*Pastor Bill Breylinger (Lead Pastor)*



## Mission Statement

Motivated by God's love and fueled by His grace, whenever and wherever a hand reaches out for help, we want the hand of Jesus to be there.  
For this we are responsible.


 The logo for Creative Arts ministries features the word "Creative" in a black, ornate, cursive font. Above the letter 'i' in "Creative" is a musical staff with a treble clef and several notes. To the right of "Creative" is the word "ARTS" in large, bold, block letters, each filled with a different color of the rainbow spectrum (purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, red). Below "ARTS" is the word "ministries" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a light green background.
 

# Creative ARTS ministries

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on the arts. All the theaters on Broadway, and across the country, became suddenly dark. Concerts — from symphonies to contemporary music festivals — were canceled. Church choirs and ensembles were put on hold and futures of performing became questionable. This has not only had a devastating effect on the economics of so many, but it has isolated the public from one of the things that's most needed right now: **the essential connection that comes from sharing arts experiences.**

*“The arts are of critical importance right now on multiple levels,” said Susan Cook, Director of UW–Madison’s Mead Witter School of Music. “Engaging with the arts — in our case through making music or listening to music — provides solace, awakens curiosity and allows us to be in the moment with our thoughts and feelings. It reminds us of our essential humanity and so often brings us kinds of beauty so necessary in times of struggle.”*

While music in itself has certainly not stopped here at Union, much of the core of the Creative Arts has indeed been missed for the past several months. Well things are slowly beginning to change and with carefulness and common sense, we will resume soon to full capacity in this ministry!

Praise and Worship in its limited members has been able to proceed as normal for worship services; yet the choir, orchestra and hand bells have not for a variety of reasons. The orchestra has been a very delicate situation because of the force of playing ‘wind’ instruments. However we are going to be resuming this group in the next few weeks because of special precautions they will be practicing under the direction of Marilyn Taylor. The hand bell ringers have been on hold for Covid reasons as well as the loss of our director this past year. Everything that was achieved and built is still in place and this group will resume under new leadership in the near future. And then there is our beloved Voices of Truth choir. I don’t think there is a member here who is not missing the camaraderie of being in this ministry. We have set a few goals to get back together but they have been postponed throughout the year. As a final decision, it is now decided that the VOT choir will continue to lay out this season as with many other vocal organizations in the community, and we will resume in the fall of 2021. **However, the members of this choir will be returning for a limited time and with limited capacity to put together some special anthems for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.**

On the side of the Creative Arts Ministry also remains the absence of special programs. This is my favorite part of my job and it is getting close time to put a couple of these special events together once again. So keep watching for some comedy and variety and maybe even a game show to be scheduled soon this spring!

I want to close with thanking each and every one of you that are reading this article right now. Your patience and understanding through this very difficult time has not gone unnoticed and you will always be so appreciated by not only me, but all who work here on our Union staff.

**Jim Lanier**  
**Creative Arts Pastor**

## A FEW THOUGHTS FROM SYDNEY LANIER

We're all different in the world whether it is how we look, what color we are, or what sexuality we are born with...we're all special. But why do so many people not accept this? Why are we so often neglected by what we were born with? It makes no sense at all! But here's the thing; sometimes, we can feel like neglecting ourselves from time to time because of our specialties. Take me for example. I was born with high functioning autism. It happened to be a huge challenge for me and I myself felt different from other people. I had trouble communicating with friends and I always made things the same during a routine. I still do that. I even had some bullies who would always get on my nerves and it was hard to ignore them. What's also different about me was that I think differently. For example, somebody might do math by what the teacher is explaining, but I would do it differently, which leads me into struggling with math problems. Sometimes I can feel unintelligent by these situations but really I am smart and humble. It's just that I'm different, and that's okay! Even my family and friends love me the way I am. Even if I fail on a test, they would still be proud of me.

Another thing I would also like to talk about is people with gender struggles. There are people out there who are struggling because they might be gay, bi, trans, or any other sexuality. Yes, there are homophobic people and parents who may not accept this, but that doesn't matter! All that matters is that you're you! So to all the families out there who are not allowed to accept this for your children or any other member, just love them with all of your heart! Show the love! They're still part of your family! There are tons of family members out there who do not accept their child's sexuality and kick them out like garbage. They cast them out, causing them to feel abandoned and left alone with nobody there to comfort them. It can be like kicking your dog out of the house simply because it only had three legs or kicking your cat out of the house simply because it was hairless. Rejected people with a different sexuality could lead them to things you may not expect like depression, loneliness, and suffering.

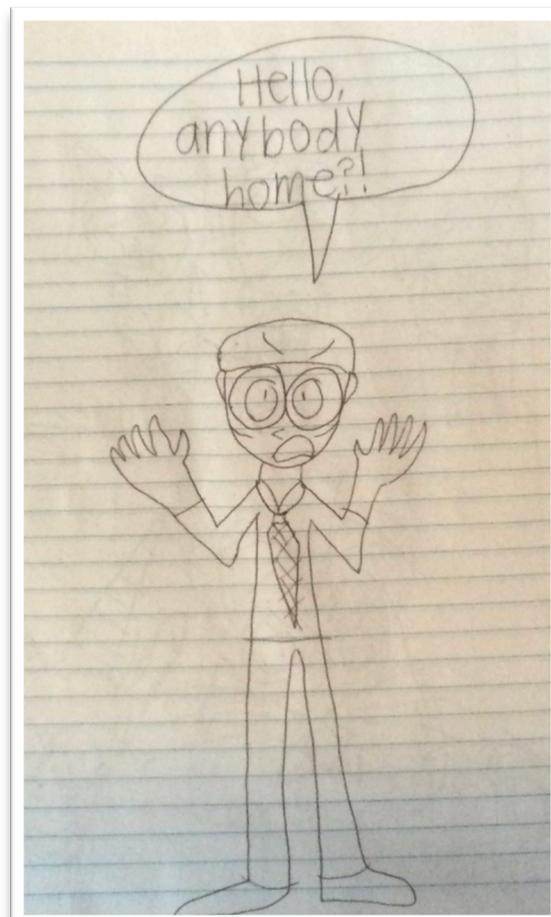
We all might think different sexuality is a sin, but if we focus more on that person who has this type of challenge, we'll eventually learn that really, that person is innocent and is still a part of the family. Just like the saying goes, "Be yourself because everyone else is taken." We'll never expect a gay to be straight, just like we'll never expect a fish to breathe out of water or an ostrich to fly. All we just need to do is to accept who that person really is.

Finally I would like to talk about race. There are four different basic colors around the world: red, yellow, black, and white. We're all the children and descendants of the Lord no matter what color we are, but why do we always have such a rivalry over it? After the time of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we still don't have a nice relationship. For example, we still had wars in history and last year, we had the riots. It just doesn't make any sense because this is actually our family whom we're going against.

What we should really do is come together as a loving family no matter what color we are. Just like in *The Lion King 2: Simba's Pride*, a pride of lions were going against a different pride, however, that all changed after Kiara, the cub of Simba, fell in love with Kovu, the outside lion, and told the whole pride that they were all family to one another no matter if they're enemies or friends. Just like what Jesus said to people, "Love your enemies." It might be hard for all of us, but if we just make the right decisions and follow God's order, we can all eventually get along.

So what I'm saying to everybody is that no matter how different you or anybody else are from the inside to the outside, accept yourself and that person because we are all still family in this huge world that God has given all of us.

**Thank you,  
Sydney Claire Lanier**





Heyyy everyone! Happy New Year! 2020 has been something else, and just like the rest of the world we had to try and do new things. It might not have been perfect but with God we were able to still have church.

First I want to thank a few people on my team that have been extremely helpful through 2020 and are continuing to help now in 2021. I would like to thank Tamara and Ryan Haynie who always there willing to help with pictures, running the camera,

media for services, and if there is anything else that I need for the Tech Ministry. They're always there willing to help. I would also like to thank Tracey Caraballo for stepping in when the church campus was closed. She would help me with media for recording and with rehearsals. Even with everything else on her plate she was always there and continues to help me for our Sunday Worship services. Finally, I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to Gary Smith and my Grandpa, Stephen Becker, for helping me with our Sanctuary lighting, finding the right equipment, and for always working hard. They are always there for me when I need them and I can always count on them.

There is so much that my team has done and continues to do for our Tech Ministry, and without them there would be no Tech Ministry – Thank you all! I'm grateful for all of your support in this ministry because without your support and encouragement I wouldn't have the honor to be working in my dream job at my dream church, the church that has always been there for me growing up and is now here supporting my ministry. I love you all!

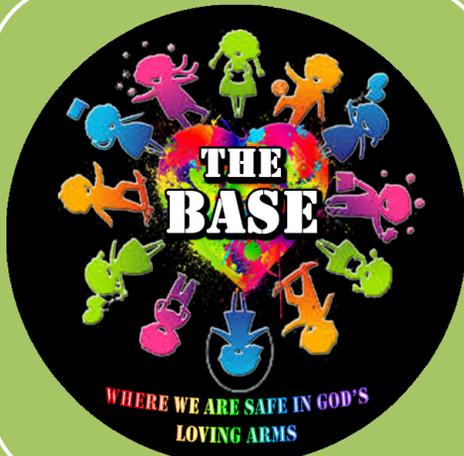
Now with that being said, I could still use some volunteers. I don't want to wear out or over use the amazing people already on my team. You don't need any experience – I can teach you what you need to know. So if you are interested or know of anyone who would be in joining the Union Tech Ministry please contact me at the church office or email me. We're looking forward to 2021 as we pray we continue to better your worship experiences, whether it's in-person or online – to help you enter the throne room of God and feel His presence through sound, lights, and visuals.

Don't forget to stay connected with us through our church website: [weareunion.org](http://weareunion.org). Remember you can either worship with us in-person or by watching our sermons or videos on our church Facebook page: **UnionChurchAP**

Make sure you Like, Share & Follow...or check us out on our YouTube Channel (make sure to subscribe and hit the bell icon to get notified when we go live or upload a video):  
<https://m.youtube.com/c/UnionChurchAP/>

We are also making CD's for those who have no access to the Internet. If you would like CD's of the sermons please call the church office. If anyone needs technical help to get connected to our sites or setting things up call the church office or email me at [mbernhard@weareunion.org](mailto:mbernhard@weareunion.org)

♥ Always – Byeeeeeeeee  
**Miranda Bernhard (Production Manager)**



*This New Year is like an empty bowl waiting to be filled with new experiences, goals and God's plan for our lives. Through this pandemic we are forced to try different things to reintroduce God back into the lives of so many who have resorted to the safety and comforts of their homes. Our goal is to become what and who God wants us to become. Although that won't happen in one year, it is a goal we can set to take steps on the narrow path that will lead to God and all He has in store for us.*

*I look forward to helping recommit the lives of our children to Christ and for them to experience God's love. I have enlisted the help of two new Nursery workers due to Miss Stefanie's health issues. Savannah Navarro and Sarah Beadle have joined our team in bringing God into the lives of our nursery students. Thank You!*

*"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." – 1John 3:2*

**Miss Fawn Waterman  
(Children's Minister)**



When I was a young man in youth ministry I had the privilege to go to the Southern Baptist Convention at the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville. On the first night I heard a pastor get up and preach one of the most amazing messages I had ever heard. In his message he mentioned that he had been fasting from food for forty days to prepare his heart for that particular message. I was so inspired I decided that I would go on a forty day fast. In my mind I thought if I were to sacrifice so much that God would miraculously make me an amazing speaker just like the pastor I had just heard. So on the way home I remember telling my Senior Pastor, Rev. David Drake, what I had decided. He told me that I should start small and build up to the forty day fast – to fast for one day and then the next week for three or four days, then for a week until I could reach my goal of forty days. I wish I could tell you I did it, that I reached my goal, but after the first day I decided fasting was not for me.

One important lesson I learned was that I was not fasting to give God something I was only fasting to receive something I wanted. In 2020 we have all been forced to sacrifice so much: our own plans and freedom. Our daily way of life was interrupted, but not just our own lives but our ministries were put on hold as well. We had so many plans for the school year and for summer camps, but the Bible tells us that His ways might not be our ways and to trust in the Lord with all of our hearts. One thing I learned through this year of sacrifice was perspective. Do not just look at what we've lost but what God is doing and how He can use this time to help us see that some things needed to be sacrificed in order to be able to grow. So in 2021 I am excited about the fresh start in Youth Ministry. I can't wait to see what God is going to do through these amazing teenagers.

**God Bless,  
Pastor Eddie Morrison (Youth Pastor)**

## Union's Mission

We are as busy as ever! Union's Mission has been helping with water bills, gas vouchers and food (fresh meat and milk – items not offered in the pantry at Union).

Due to COVID-19 there are a lot of hurting people that have lost jobs and need help. The hands of Union have been and continue to be there for those in need.

Thank you all for your continued support for Union's Mission. May God bless you all in 2021.

## Elaine's Kids Christmas Ministry

My Kid's Ministry had another great year! We were able to bless 477 kids, and I'm sure there were a lot of smiles on Christmas morning. Gifts were shopped for, bagged and then delivered to the parents. The gifts are not wrapped, as I believe the parents would like to add their personal touch. I want to thank all of you that helped me with donations and prayers to make this such a successful ministry.

*Happy 2021 & God Bless!*

*Elaine Powell*

## Church Secretary's Annual Report

### **Church Membership**

Total Full Time Membership:  
520

Households Represented:  
331

Total Associate Membership:  
43

Households Represented:  
24

Total Membership:  
563

Total Households Represented:  
355

*(This Report is as of January 20, 2021)*

---

New Members Added In 2020: **9**

Members Removed In 2020: **13**

New Associate Members Added In 2020: **0**

Associate Members Removed In 2020: **4**

---

### **Decisions For Christ**

2020 Baptisms: 1

2020 Infant Dedications: 2

2019 Re-dedications: 6

*(These numbers do not include Decisions that were not reported)*

---

### ***In Deepest Sympathy***

*Our condolences go out to the following family, friends and members:*

† *Wendell Gall (December 2, 2020)*

† *Suzanne Scharff (December 5, 2020)*

† *Bob Howell (December 29, 2020)*

† *Kay Simon (January 6, 2021)*

---

Please direct any and all address changes, phone numbers changes, or any other changes to your contact info to the attention of Miss Chris Hess. Church #: 863-453-3345

**In His Service,  
Chris Hess (Church Secretary)**



## 2021 Budget Report

**Last Update: 1/26/2021 @12:30 PM**

Your 2021 Budget was respectfully submitted by your:

Executive Pastor, Aaron Jahjah and Church Treasurer, Tracey Caraballo.

This Budget was reviewed and approved by your Board of Directors:

President, Lisa Jarrett, Vice President, Gary Smith, Secretary, Dorothy Howell, Treasurer, Tracey Caraballo, Director, Dennis Dunn, Director, Elaine Powell and your Lead Pastor, Bill Breylinger. Please keep in mind that Budget Revenue and Expenses have been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

If you have any questions concerning the 2021 Budget, please contact:

Pastor Aaron Jahjah and/or Tracey Caraballo at the Church Office:

(863) 453-3345

<u>MINISTRY</u>	<u>2020 EXPENSES</u>	<u>2021 BUDGET</u>	<u>2021 EXPENSES</u>
<b>CHURCH TREASURER / OPERATING</b>	<b>\$ 593,308.00</b>	<b>\$ 523,434.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,174.00</b>
Bank Debt	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -
City of Avon Park	\$ 5,159.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 433.00
Comcast	\$ 5,399.00	\$ 6,625.00	\$ 384.00
Culligan	\$ 297.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 29.00
Duke Energy	\$ 28,858.00	\$ 31,600.00	\$ -
Eric Zwayer, Tax Collector (Property)	\$ 769.00	\$ 775.00	\$ -
Eric Zwayer, Tax Collector (Vehicle)	\$ 159.00	\$ 125.00	\$ -
Guide One (Fire / Theft / Liability Ins)	\$ 6,621.00	\$ 11,340.00	\$ 946.00
Guide One Vehicle Insurance	\$ 3,625.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 200.00
Guide One (Worker's Comp Ins)	\$ 1,888.00	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 164.00
Investment Payables Debt	\$ 15,400.00	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 2,400.00
Marlin (Copy Machine)	\$ 10,780.00	\$ 10,650.00	\$ 881.00
Member Loan Interest	\$ 21,460.00	\$ -	\$ -
Member Loan Principal Payoff	\$ 85,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Notary Renewal	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -
One Write (Offering Envelopes)	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Payroll (Salary, Benefits & Taxes) / 1099s	\$ 403,363.00	\$ 394,939.00	\$ 30,508.00
Postage	\$ 1,649.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ -
Protect My Ministry (Background Checks)	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Quarterly Cleaning	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -
Quickbooks	\$ 1,698.00	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 155.00
Sissine's	\$ 580.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ -
Teco Gas	\$ 603.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 74.00

<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>2020 EXPENSES</b>	<b>2021 BUDGET</b>	<b>2021 EXPENSES</b>
<b>CHILDREN'S MINISTRY</b>	\$ -	\$ 3,100.00	\$ -
Children's Minister Continuing Education	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Special Events	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Sun /Wed Children's Church Supplies	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ -
VBS	\$ -	\$ 900.00	\$ -
<b>CHURCH SECRETARY MINISTRY</b>	\$ 3,179.00	\$ 7,030.00	\$ 175.00
General Supplies	\$ 1,463.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 175.00
Special Events / Hospitality	\$ 1,087.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Notary Renewal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Seasonal Decorating	\$ -	\$ 2,200.00	\$ -
Servant PC (Servant Keeper)	\$ 629.00	\$ 630.00	\$ -
<b>CREATIVE ARTS MINISTRY</b>	\$ 1,117.00	\$ 6,620.00	\$ 655.00
CCLI	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 646.00
CVLI	\$ 367.00	\$ 370.00	\$ -
Choir Music	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Creative Arts Pastor Continuing Education	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Instrument Maintenance/Repair	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Misc	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 9.00
Special Productions	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
<b>EXECUTIVE PASTOR MINISTRY</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
Executive Pastor Continuing Education	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Leadership / Preaching Material	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -
<b>LEAD PASTOR MINISTRY</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,050.00	\$ -
Leadership / Preaching Material	\$ -	\$ 1,050.00	\$ -
<b>MAINTENANCE MINISTRY</b>	\$ 25,499.00	\$ 28,990.00	\$ 923.00
America's First Air Conditioning	\$ 2,325.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
Central Security	\$ -	\$ 230.00	\$ -
Edgewood Landscaping	\$ 8,819.00	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 725.00
Edgewood Landscaping & Pest Control	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 160.00
Hartline Alarm Company	\$ 1,313.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Mid State Fire Equipment	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Repairs / Maintenance / Supplies	\$ 11,757.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 38.00
Van Gas	\$ 281.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
New Van / Van Repairs	\$ 44.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
<b>MARKETING MINISTRY</b>	\$ 651.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 180.00
General Marketing	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 180.00
Highlands News-Sun	\$ 651.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
Union Wear Inventory	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
<b>TECH MINISTRY</b>	\$ 3,803.00	\$ 8,440.00	\$ 40.00
Adobe Suite	\$ 420.00	\$ 455.00	\$ 35.00
Batteries Plus	\$ 253.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -
CDs / DVDs	\$ 47.00	\$ 75.00	\$ -
Inmotion Hosting (Email)	\$ 106.00	\$ 110.00	\$ -
Monthly Maintenance	\$ 2,524.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
Production Manager Continuing Education	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
38147	\$ 453.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 5.00
<b>YOUTH MINISTRY</b>	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
Curriculum	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Special Events	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Wednesday Night Worship	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Youth Pastor Continuing Education	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	\$ 627,557.00	\$ 588,364.00	\$ 38,147.00

<b>PAYROLL REPORT</b>		
<i>EMPLOYEES / 1099s</i>	<i>2020 EXPENSES</i>	<i>2021 BUDGET</i>
Payroll (Salary, Benefits & Taxes) / 1099s	\$ 403,363.00	\$ 394,939.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 403,363.00</b>	<b>\$ 394,939.00</b>

<b>CHURCH LOAN / DEBT REPORT</b>		
2020 Beginning Total Church Debt	\$	708,700.00
2020 Total Debt Eliminated	\$	152,650.00
<b>2021 CHURCH LOAN / DEBT REPORT</b>		
	<i>2021 EXPENSES</i>	<i>CURRENT</i>
Bank Debt	\$ -	\$ 339,000.00
Investment Payables Debt	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 216,150.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT CHURCH DEBT</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>555,150.00</b>

<b>MINISTRY ACCOUNT TITHES &amp; OFFERINGS (GENERAL OPERATING)</b>			
	<i>GIVEN IN 2020</i>	<i>GIVEN IN 2021</i>	<i>CURRENT BALANCE</i>
Ash Wednesday 6:00 PM	\$ 859.00	\$ -	\$ -
Christmas Eve 7:30 PM & 9:00 PM	\$ 857.00	\$ -	\$ -
Christmas Eve 11:00 PM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Crosstalk	\$ 3,626.00	\$ -	\$ -
Faith Street Giving (Online Giving)	\$ 16,507.00	\$ 898.00	\$ -
Good Friday	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mail-Ins (Tithes / Offerings)	\$ 212,847.00	\$ 12,700.00	\$ -
Maundy Thursday	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Revival	\$ 599.00	\$ -	\$ -
Sunday Night Live	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sunday Morning Traditional Service Offering	\$ 111,333.00	\$ 14,307.00	\$ -
Sunday Morning Contemporary Service Offering	\$ 15,160.00	\$ 2,025.00	\$ -
Sunrise Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Treasure Chest Ministry	\$ 14,939.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Van / Building Rental	\$ 17,312.00	\$ 1,120.00	\$ -
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 394,039.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,550.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

<b>MISSION ACCOUNT TITHES &amp; OFFERINGS</b>			
<b>MISSION MINISTRIES</b>	<i>GIVEN IN 2020</i>	<i>GIVEN IN 2021</i>	<i>CURRENT BALANCE</i>
Boy Scout Troop #156	\$ -	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00
Church Service Center	\$ 300.00	\$ 25.00	\$ -
Elaine's Christmas Ministry	\$ 3,490.00	\$ -	\$ -
Habitat For Humanity	\$ 543.00	\$ -	\$ -
Hands For Homeless	\$ 21,904.00	\$ 3,972.00	\$ 3,972.00
Miranda's Eye Surgery	\$ 2,080.00	\$ -	\$ 2,080.00
Samaritan's Touch	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -
Star Ministry	\$ 865.00	\$ -	\$ 305.00
Thanksgiving Feed	\$ 855.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Union's Mission	\$ 13,440.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 6,898.00
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 43,502.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,597.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,205.00</b>

<b>MISSION EXPENSE REPORT</b>		
	<i>2020 EXPENSES</i>	<i>2021 EXPENSES</i>
Union's Mission Expenses	\$ 8,467.00	\$ 431.00

<b>CONTINGENCY TITHES &amp; OFFERINGS (SAVINGS)</b>			
	<i>GIVEN IN 2020</i>	<i>GIVEN IN 2021</i>	<i>CURRENT BALANCE</i>
Altar Flowers	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ -
Bereavement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Children's Ministry	\$ 527.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 485.00
Creative Arts Ministry	\$ 4,677.00	\$ -	\$ 4,677.00
20/20 Christmas Challenge	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Christmas Match	\$ 54,324.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 22,000.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 50,500.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 1,025.00
Easter Match	\$ 60,910.00	\$ -	\$ -
Happy Crafters	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Highlands County CARES Act	\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Holiday Flowers	\$ 563.00	\$ -	\$ 2.00
Jolly Jents	\$ 643.00	\$ -	\$ 2,155.00
Memorials	\$ 545.00	\$ 495.00	\$ 630.00
Paycheck Protection Program Loan (Forgiven)	\$ 62,837.00	\$ -	\$ -
Repairs & Special Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Senior Connections Ministry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,082.00
Tech Ministry	\$ 2,025.00	\$ -	\$ -
Union Wear Inventory	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
VBS / Summer Day Camp Scholarships	\$ 2,240.00	\$ -	\$ 1,733.00
Women's Fellowship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Youth Ministry Continuing Education Funds	\$ 1,051.00	\$ -	\$ 1,579.00
Youth Ministry General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11.00
Youth Ministry Repair Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Youth Summer Camps	\$ 1,797.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,969.00
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 249,489.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,065.00</b>	<b>\$ 37,498.00</b>

<b>TOTAL GIVEN TO MINISTRY, MISSION &amp; CONTINGENCY ACCOUNTS</b>			
	<i>GIVEN IN 2020</i>	<i>GIVEN IN 2021</i>	<i>TOTAL BALANCE</i>
Ministry Account Tithes & Offerings	\$ 394,039.00	\$ 32,550.00	\$ -
Mission Account Tithes & Offerings	\$ 43,502.00	\$ 6,597.00	\$ 15,205.00
Contingency Account Tithes & Offerings	\$ 249,489.00	\$ 2,065.00	\$ 37,498.00
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 687,030.00</b>	<b>\$ 41,212.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,703.00</b>

## Accounts Payable Report

Last Update: 1/26/2021 @1:30 PM

PAYEE	DUE DATE	CURRENT DUE	PAST DUE
Adobe Suite (Auto/Monthly)	2/19/21	\$34.99	
America First Air Conditioning			
Bagwell Lumber			
Bank Debt			
Bill Jarrett Ford			
CCLI (Music License / Membership)	6/30/21	\$129.00	
City of Avon Park (Utilities)	2/10/21		
Comcast	2/20/21	\$371.99	
Crown Shredding			
Culligan (Bottled Water)			
CVLI (Video License / Membership)	11/10/21	\$367.26	
Duke Energy	2/13/21	\$1,403.13	
Edgewood Landscape (Donated Giving)			
Edgewood Landscape/Pest Control			
Eric T. Zwyer (Tax Collector / Property)	12/31/21		
Eric T. Zwyer (Tax Collector / Vehicle)	June '21		
GuideOne (Fire/Theft Insurance/Liability)	2/1/21	\$945.70	
GuideOne (Vehicle Insurance)	2/1/21	\$200.83	
GuideOne Insurance (Workers' Comp)	2/1/21	\$164.00	
Hartline Alarm			
Highlands News-Sun			
Inmotion Hosting (Email / 1x per year)	5/26/21	\$131.88	
Intuit & Quickbooks (Auto / Monthly)	2/18/21	\$155.00	
Investment Payables	Weekly	\$300.00	
J. W. Pepper (Choir Music)			
Marlin Bank (Copy Machine Lease)	1/25/21	\$881.06	
Mid State Fire Equipment			
One Write (Offering Envelopes)	2/15/21	\$74.12	
Palmer Electric	2/10/21	\$195.76	
Palmer Rentals			
PAYROLL	Weekly	\$5,421.60	
PAYROLL TAXES	Weekly	\$1,173.12	
BENEFIT EXPENSES	Weekly	\$288.46	
BENEFIT EXPENSES (Monthly)	2/15/21	\$2,062.00	
BENEFIT EXPENSES (Quarterly)	4/1/21	\$700.00	
Servant Keeper (Membership Database)	2/6/21	\$29.99	
Sissine's (Copier Maintenance/Supplies)			
TECO (Auto / Monthly)	2/9/21	\$60.00	
Wix (Website / Monthly)	2/10/21	\$4.95	
Wix (Website / Yearly)	6/1/21	\$204.00	
		<b>\$15,298.84</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,298.84</b>

KEY: All highlighted bills are automatically debited.

## From The Desk Of Your Executive Pastor

I was reading a quote the other day from Pastor Michael Todd, "Don't ask God to do big things in shallow water." That statement really began to resonate in my heart and mind. I started to think of how often we desire God to do the impossible; however, are we ready to receive the impossible where we're currently standing? We've always heard that God is our Anchor, but when is it that we would normally need an anchor? I would say when we're in deep waters. Pastor Michael went on to explain that we won't need an anchor when we're living in the shallow. WOW...AMEN...that will preach! God longs for us to leave the shores of shallow faith, shallow love, shallow forgiveness, shallow grace, shallow living, shallow joy, shallow obedience to His purposes for us, and in all shallow Christ-following.

As I reflect on this past year at Union, I would definitely say that our church has waded off of the shallow ground and plunged into the deep. We've asked God to be our Anchor – to do "big things" and for that He has poured a wave of blessing over us. We have been saturated by the waters of leadership, love, grace, prayers, ministry, mission, dynamic worship services, healthier financial stewardship, and we've done it because you have left the shallow with us. Thank you for taking the dive into the deep end! Join me in asking God to continue to do big things!

**Loving God & Loving People, Pastor Aaron Jahjah (Executive Pastor)**

## Praise To The God Of The Impossible

After an unprecedented year like 2020, I would like to kick off this New Year with an amazing Praise Report. As I have shared with you in my previous newsletter articles, God truly had His hand over the Ministry & Mission here at Union as we weathered the storms that a global pandemic would bring. He made it possible for us to enter the New Year with ALL of our bills current, a pathway to becoming debt-free and vision for our future.

As you see in our 2021 Budget Report, in spite of a seven-month shut down, significantly lower attendance and the financial challenges that we faced, we were able to reduce our debt by **\$152,650.00!!! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!** He made a way in the midst of circumstances that seemed impossible to our human eyes. Praise God that His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

He strengthened our FAITH, TRUST and made us even better stewards of the gifts given to His kingdom. He continually directs Union's path and we have been faithful to follow. Trusting that what He has planned for us is even better than the vision we have for ourselves. We truly believe that if we continue to be who God has called us to be as a church and live out our purpose of Loving God & Loving People no matter what storm is raging...He will be faithful to get us to the other side.

Our love and appreciation for you all is beyond measure. We could not do any of this without you. This is YOUR church! Thank you for being so invested in the work we do here to build up the Kingdom. We are excited about what God has in store for 2021.

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ~Romans 8:28*

**Giving thanks for you always...HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**Tracey Caraballo (Church Treasurer)**



*"Loving God - Loving People"*  
 www.weareunion.org