



Weekly Newsletter

OCTOBER 23, 2026

UNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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It's not really a story about forgiveness. Jesus' parable about the Prodigal Son is most often presented as a story about forgiveness, but that's not really what it's about. While the father's welcoming back of the son in celebration is certainly a great example of forgiveness, it's really a story about reality, and how both sons miss it.

The younger son, the one called prodigal, demands what is owed to him. His rightful inheritance belongs to him and him alone and he is ready to take what is his. With his inheritance under his control he can go and live life as he desires, secure in the knowledge that he is in control of his own life.

Meanwhile, the older son works day in and day out in order to earn what is his. He puts his sweat and blood into his father's land, livestock, and property. When he receives his inheritance it will be because his father has recognized that he is deserving of it, and then it will be truly his own.

But the father has already created all of it. The source of the inheritance is not what is owed to the prodigal, nor is it what the older brother has done to earn it. It is, all of it, already available to them both, free and abundant. They simply have to remain with the source of that abundance.

And the story tells us that that abundance is available to us as well, if only we will stay with the source. As Unity prepares to enter its next chapter, may we stay by the source of our faith, of our joy, and of our lives. God has brought us this far, and God will continue to guide us.

Pastor Ben

Dates To Remember

10/24 Community Table 4-4:30pm FCC Pulaski Team
10/25 Worship 11am
10/26 Brown Bag Bible Study 12-1pm at UCC ("Too Big A Burden" Matthew 23:1-12; Micah 3:5-12)
10/26 God and My Girlfriends 6:30-8pm
10/28 Lunch Bunch 12 noon at Sal's JR
10/31 Community Table 4-4:30pm Kiwanis Team
11/1 Disciples Book Study 9:45am; Worship 11am
11/2 Brown Bag Bible Study 12-1pm at UCC (This Could Be Awhile" Matthew 25:1-13; Psalm 78:1-7)
11/3 Oasis Circle 10:30am; M&M's Circle 6pm; CWF 7pm

BIBLE READINGS THIS WEEK

26. Mark 14-16
27. Luke 1-3
28. Luke 4-6
29. Luke 7-9
30. Luke 10-13
31. Luke 14-17

November
1. Luke 18-21

WORSHIP OCTOBER 25

Announcements/Greeting

Children's Blessing

Music Meditation

*Call to Worship

Leader: Love the Lord your God

People: With all your heart, all your soul, all your mind!

Leader: Love your neighbor as yourself!

People: These are the commandments which guide our faith!

*Opening Hymn

no. 517 (1,2,4)

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

*Opening Prayer

Special Music

UCC Choir

"Sheltered in the Arms of God"

Scripture Matthew 22:34-46; 1 Psalm

Good News "Number 1"

Prayer for the People/Lord's Prayer

Moment of Gratitude

Music During Offering

Prayer for Offering

Communion Hymn

no. 609 (1,5,6)

"Take My Life"

Invitation to Communion

Prayer for Bread and Cup

Words of Institution

Share in Communion

Prayer After Communion

Invitation to Discipleship

*Praise Hymn

no. 530

"I've Got Peace Like A River"

*Closing Prayer

*Going Forth "Weave" no. 495

Weave, weave, weave us together,

Weave us together in unity and love.

Weave, weave, weave us together,

Weave us together, together in love.

*denotes standing, if able

Serving in Worship

Rev. Ben Moore

Elder: Janice Cheverton

Media: Nicole Altizer

Worship Leader: Kelly Evans

Deacons: Gary Davis, Anna Goodall,

Treena Stike, Dwayne Dickerson

Music: UCC Choir, Praise Team

Accompanist: Gina Rhea



THE CWF WILL BE COLLECTING SOCKS FOR ALL AGES
(CHILDREN, WOMEN & MEN) TO DONATE TO THE
CLOTHING BANK. THERE WILL BE A CART TO DROP OFF
YOUR DONATIONS ON **OCTOBER 18TH & 25TH.**

Praying for -

Church Members: New Concerns:

Susan Barton, Anne Chrisman, Sharon Dodson, Ruth Hinkley, Tom Johnson, Betty Jones, Lauren and Addisen Lawson, Joe Marshall, Barry Moore, Sandy Pascoe, Brittney Stike, Angela Thompson

Long-Term: Frances Carter, Johnny and K.C. Cole, Alice Gallimore, Glenn and Karen Johnson, Jessica Jonas, Max Mottesheard, Richard Sandoe, Aubrey Scaletta and family, Danielle Shelton, Phyllis and Alban Shumate, Keith Whitt

Community Friends: Hope Aidam, Teddy Altizer, Pamela Bartle, Larry Beverley, Matt Byrd, Becki and Addy Calfee, Douglas Chapman, Lucy Coleman, Mike Crews, **Family of Kem Darden**, Marika Delgado, All military in the Middle East, Brooke Exum and baby Emory Exum, Catherine Fox, Holly Gearhart and baby Hattie Gearhart, Jerry Gill, Phillis Grubb, Toby Hedge, Kathy Jackson, Ricky Jackson, David Johnston, Rosemary Kesling, Harriet Ferrell Lambert, Dennis Martin, Jeff McConnell, Dori Meginle, Joey Murphy, **Family of Hoyt Parris, Sr.**, Renie Price, Wayne Queen, Harold Rhodes, Rex Shelton, Kay Snider, Paula Sparks, Mary Ann Tate, Pam Thomas, Daniel Todd, Amy Torrence, Brenda Trusser, Amanda and Alex Wilkens and family, Sherry Wolfe

Shut-ins:

Delilah McConnell - Spring Oaks, Christiansburg

Betty Wilson - Kroontje Health Care Center

Doyle Barton - Kroontje Health Care Center

Annie Akers - Heritage Hall

If you need specific prayer, send an email to: prayers@unitychristianchurchradford.org