

UNION TIDINGS

*A monthly publication of Union Congregational United Church of Christ
5088 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33415*

Volume 130, Issue 1

January 2023

UNION IN THE NATIONAL NEWS: “ATTRACTING NEW PEOPLE”

Happy New Year, Union!! Below is an excerpt from a national news article from the United Church of Christ. For the full article, click on the link: <https://www.chhsm.org/news/florida-ucc-church-finds-livestreaming-is-attracting-new-people/>.

Easing ‘the most difficult thing’

Harvey said she believes streaming can ease people’s minds. It lets newcomers try out worship online, live from the privacy of home, before deciding to come in person. “The most difficult thing for people to do is to walk through the doors of a church,” she said. “They don’t know what they’ll find on the other side of the door.” She said online worship “is giving people access to our church without having to come through the doors.” And then some of them do choose to come through the doors in person.

Both in person and online, Union emphasizes a wide-open hospitality. Harvey said the church regards that welcome — along with its anti-racist, multicultural, peace-and-justice, Open and Affirming identity — as a matter of following Jesus’ commandment of love.

‘People that would understand me’

All of that mattered to Zhou. Originally from China, she moved to California in her mid-teens, then to Florida for college. Because of her sexual orientation, she never felt fully accepted in the conservative church her family attends, nor in the religious services she experienced as a student at a Catholic high school. As a recent university graduate in her 20s, “I was going through a rough time in life,” she said. “I wanted to find people that would understand me, and to find my faith.” So she went online, looking for an LGBTQ-friendly church in her area. When she discovered Union, “I went on their website quite a few times before I went I in person,” she said. “I watched their livestream.” Wanting to be sure Union’s welcome was real and not just “a claim,” she “did a little digging.” “I researched the history of the church, like how they [the UCC] had the first gay pastor, the first lesbian pastor,” she said. “That’s how I was like — I really want to go there.” When she did finally walk through Union’s door, “the people there were really welcoming,” she said. “I was being accepted by my faith, by the church. I finally felt that this is where I belonged. After a few months I felt, I’m ready; I’m ready to go 100 percent into my belief, instead of feeling isolated.”

Please help to spread the Good News of God’s love for us all by inviting someone to Union either in person or virtually. All are welcome here!!

With Love,
Pastor Sheila





Family and friends of Vernice Glaves; Bonnie's daughter Kelly; Richard Lightfoot family and friends; Melanie Shepherd family and friends; Marilyn Woodbury family and friends; Peggy Lyons family and friends; Cyndi Lacharite family and friends; Jeanne Martin; Barbara Gruber; Simone Shah; Cynthia and Sam Clarke; Jane Grandusky; Rod Jennings; Sabita Shah; Bonnie's family and friends; Louise Dempster's friend, Terry; Hurricane Victims; Linda's Family for the loss of her sister, Marilyn; Evelyn's great-great-grandson, Zade; Debbie Wemyss's friend Jodie Quackenbush; Pastor Sheila's Aunt Betty; Linda Padmore's daughter, Whitney; Melanie Shepherd; Linda Padmore, Lenny's mom, Kathy; Rosemita & family; Shooting massacres; Donna's sister, Sharon; Joanie Gerson; Susan DiAmicis; Judith's nephew, Ramine; Charles Rodriguez; Gail Fei's daughter, Debbie; Ruth Cassidy's husband, Bill; Nancy Reser's daughter, Lori; Dottie Boswell; Marjorie Hanson; George Gerson's brother, Jerome; Shirley Thomas; Gail Fei's friend, (Helga's daughter), Katia; Melanie's friend, Grace; Jan Mark's son, Gary; Richard Lightfoot's brother, Joseph; All Justice & Peace efforts; grieving, depression and anxiety; all refugees; Ukraine War; Prayers for Puerto Rico

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Linda Chapman
- 3 Michael Thomas
- 5 Donna Minott
- 7 Linda Padmore
- 11 Rosemitho Vallerie
- 12 Nelson Bailey
- 17 Jeffrey Felten
- 18 Catherine Menning
- 21 Ilsa Dickinson
- 22 Mike DiAmicis
- 24 Ralph Tarricone
- 26 Travis Bailey
- 27 Bob Smith
- 27 Margaret Upson
- 31 Lori Schenone



5088 Summit Blvd.
West Palm Beach, Florida 33415
561-686-0330

Please remember Union Congregational United Church of Christ in your Will and Estate Planning.

Please contact the church office for more information.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY



Every Sunday beautiful flowers adorn our altar. We have a flower chart for sign-ups. Also, you can call the office or send an email to office@unionucc.net. Garden flowers are \$10 and floral arrangements are \$35. As an added bonus you can list the flowers in the bulletin in memory or in honor of someone or a special occasion. You are also welcome to take the \$35 arrangement home.

Confirmation & Christmas Pageant



We are delighted to have 5 youth to confirm their faith in God and become new members. Also, thanks to all who participated in Union's Christmas Celebrations!

Christmas Eve Service



MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM

Greetings Union!! Happy New Year!!
Here is the latest news for Mission & Outreach.

- Our food pantry remains a successful mission serving the West Palm Beach community. We greatly appreciate all the volunteers, food contributors and financial donors. This year, we look forward to reaching more families who are in need. Coordinators: Debbie Chea & Simone Barton
Reminder: Food bags are handed out every first Saturday from 9am to noon.
- Family Promise is also a mission of Union. We are 'always' looking for new members and friends who would like to get involved to help prepare a meal or buy groceries. Union is working hard to make life just a little better while these children wait for a new place to call home! The new 2023 schedule is forthcoming. Coordinators: Jane Grandusky & Judith Mooers
- Each year the Gleaning Project through CROS Ministries attempts to help feed the hungry in Palm Beach and Martin Counties through community collaborations. Coordinator: Jane Louise Smith
- With our five (5) mission offerings each year(OCWM, STC, OGHS, NIN, Christmas Fund), we remain consistent in supporting the UCC and sponsoring vital ministries that bring hope to people in the U.S. and around the world. We are maintaining our mission message of teaching others about God's love through the various projects that we support.



God Bless,
Rosemarie Lightfoot
Mission Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Greetings Union! Praise God for 2023!!!
Thank You, Lord for bringing us through yet another year during pandemic times. We are deeply grateful!

As you already know, *From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving* is the theme that began this United Church of Christ's Stewardship season in October. This theme is a reminder that gratitude and generosity is a response to the gifts of God that Jesus teaches us when we share communion. The church depends on our financial support to continue to grow and serve.

Pledge/Commitment cards were mailed out in October along with a letter explaining our stewardship campaign. We started collecting the cards on November 21st during the anniversary celebration. We are still collecting and totaling cards. Thanks to Zaida, Jane and Ada for helping to get the letters and cards mailed out. A huge 'thank you' also to Debbie and Joanna for collecting and totaling the pledges. If you did not receive a commitment card or are still considering a pledge, please contact the church office.

When we have a heart to share our financial blessings, there are no limits to how we, the Church, can make a difference.

'From Bread & Cup to Faith & Giving!'

God Bless,
Rosemarie Lightfoot
Stewardship Chairperson

GLEANING: Feeding Our Neighbors



There is a sign-up sheet on the soundboard for all those who would like to participate in gleaning.

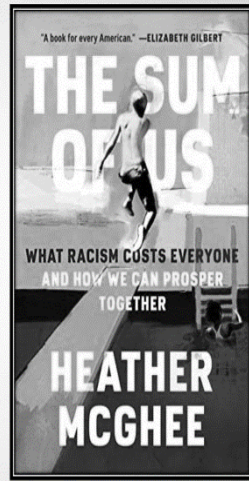
We will meet at the church parking lot on
January 28, 2023 at 7:45 am.

BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

6:45 PM Prayer & Reflection

7:00 PM Ice Breaker &
Bible Study



**UNION CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held February 12, 2023 at 11.45am.

All are invited to attend.

A Reminder from Your Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee is seeking members for the various Ministry/Committee Teams. As you know, Union is a very active church. The running of the Union and its outreach commitments are dependent upon church members agreeing to serve on its Ministries and Committees. There are copies of the Vision/Mission descriptions for each Ministry/Committee on the soundboard at the rear of the Sanctuary. Take a moment to read these.

All church members are welcome to serve on our various Teams. If you are interested in serving on a particular Team, please speak to one of our Nominating Committee members or to Pastor Sheila, as soon as possible. The Nominating Committee will hold meetings during the month of January to fill the roster for each Ministry and Committee Team.

Thanks from your Nominating Committee,
Estelle Fanucci, Chair; Alice Payne,
Jane Grandusky, and Rosemarie Lightfoot

JUJICE & PEACE TEAM

DID YOU KNOW?

According to a December 6, 2022 article in the Palm Beach Post, Neighborhood Renaissance, a WPB nonprofit organization that specializes in affordable housing has proposed a \$19 million project for affordable housing and retail and commercial development in the Coleman Park community on North Tamarind Avenue. Of the 43 affordable housing units proposed, a dozen will be set aside for very low-income families. The rents on these would range from \$290 per month to \$588 per month, under current market conditions.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fanucci, J & P Ministry Chair

TRUSTEE NEWS



Put your talent to good use! We need people to help out around the church – in the yard, small repairs, painting, light clean up – if any of this is something you can do please SIGN UP on the SOUND BOARD.

From your Trustees

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / YOUTH TRIP



On Sunday, January 29th, Union's Christian Ed/ Youth Ministry Team invite all to meet after Worship/Fellowship and caravan to the South Florida Fair. Please contact Donna or Rev. Michael-Ann if you plan to attend.

YOUTH & KIDS PAGE



Children and Youth Christmas Party





JANUARY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Communion Sunday	2	3 Office Hours 9am-1pm	4 Office Hours 9am-1pm Bible Study 7PM	5 Office Hours 9am-1pm	6 Office Hours 9am-1pm	7 Food Pantry 9am-12pm 
8 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	9	10 Office Hours 9am-1pm	11 Office Hours 9am-1pm Bible Study 7PM	12 Office Hours 9am-1pm	13 Office Hours 9am-1pm	14
15 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming MLK Sunday	16 	17 Office Hours 9am-1pm	18 Office Hours 9am-1pm Bible Study 7PM	19 Office Hours 9am-1pm	20 Office Hours 9am-1pm	21
22 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	23	24 Office Hours 9am-1pm	25 Office Hours 9am-1pm Bible Study 7PM	26 Office Hours 9am-1pm	27 Office Hours 9am-1pm	28 Gleaning 8am-11am
29 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Youth Trip: South Florida Fair!	30	31 Office Hours 9am-1pm				

MLK SUNDAY

January 15, 2023

10:00 AM Worship

11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP

"Returning violence for violence
multiplies violence,
adding deeper darkness to a night
already devoid of stars...

Hate cannot drive
out hate:
only love can do that."

Martin Luther King Jr.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT UNION!!!

February 26, 2023

1:00PM

SPECIAL GUEST:
THE EBONY CHORALE



Union Congregational United Church of Christ
5088 Summit Boulevard
West Palm Beach, Florida 33415
(561) 686-0330
www.unionucc.net
email: office@unionucc.net

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Happy New Year to:

May the faith of God
be with you this year.
May the peace of God
surround you,
and may you be blessed
each day!

Happy New Year

