

UNION TIDINGS

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

Volume 130, Issue 7

August 2023

MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

Making All Things New was the theme for this year's 2023 General Synod. Rosemarie Lightfoot and I were among those who represented the Florida Conference Delegation. The following Resolutions that we hope to discuss at our August "table talks" during Fellowship Hour include:

Living into God's Economy: Celebrating the 170th Anniversary of the UCC Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) Celebrates that since 1853 the CB&LF has been helping the church live into God's Economy.

Denouncing the Dobbs Decision and Proclaiming Abortion as Healthcare This resolution denounces the Dobbs decision and affirms abortion as healthcare.

A Resolution Calling for a New Study by our Church on our Relationship with the Indian Boarding Schools and the Boarding Schools in Hawai'i Calls on the UCC to do a new study on the UCC's relationship with Indian boarding schools and boarding schools in Hawai'i.

Closing the Digital Divide: Calling on the UCC to Seek Digital Justice and Inclusion Calls on the UCC to continue working for digital and communications justice.

A Resolution Urging Planning for and Implementing Electrification Calls on UCC to promote electrifying space heating & cooling equipment when they fail or are outdated.

Faithful Advocacy for Intersectional and Transformational Healing in Harm Reduction Harm reduction is understood as a set of practices for minimizing drug related harm.

Affirming Guns to Gardens & Other Gun Violence Prevention Ministries Calls on all settings of the UCC in engaging in meaningful action to address gun violence.

Free from Plastic Pollution Calls on the UCC to join other concerned groups to take action to reduce the plastic pandemic that threatens life and God's creation.

A Resolution Supporting Public School Educators, Academic Freedom, and Equity Efforts in Schools Calls on the UCC to voice support of public-school educators to ensure the advancement of equity.

A Resolution to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans Calls the UCC to publicly proclaim its support to study and design Reparations proposals for African Americans.

A Resolution Condemning Prolonged Solitary Confinement as a Form of Torture Calls on the UCC to condemn prolonged solitary confinement as a form of torture.

Actively Affirming the Human Dignity of Transgender and Nonbinary Persons Calls us to a radical welcome to our transgender and non-binary siblings.

A Resolution Calling on UCC Local Churches to Witness "A White Supremacy Free Zone" & Confronting White Supremacy Calls upon predominately white local churches to use a program for implementation.

Looking forward to our August "table talks" and please feel free to reach out to me with your thoughts. It was my honor and pleasure to represent the church during General Synod!

*With God's Peace, Love and Blessings,
Pastor Sheila*





Frank W Hubbell III's family and friends; Charlene Buck; Dottie Boswell's family and friends; Norma Grassman's family and friends; Ruth Cassidy's husband, Bill; Jane Grandusky's family and friends; Charles's family and friends; Doug Cornwell's family; Steve Spencer family and friends; Billie Wilson; Robert Littlefield; Rose's daughter, Tyshawna for healing & recovery; Jan Mark; Stacey Bowen's (Lenny) family and friends; Isabelle Chapman's family and friends; Ione's family and friends; Estelle Fanucci; Nancy Reser; Linda Padmore; Renna McGinnis; Jeanne Martin; Barbara Gruber; Simone Shah; Cynthia and Sam Clarke; Rod Jennings; Sabita Shah; Donna's sister, Sharon; Joanie Gerson; Judith's nephew, Ramine; Charles Rodriguez; Gail Fei's daughter, Debbie; 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; Justice & Peace efforts; grieving, depression and anxiety; all refugees; Ukraine War; Puerto Rico; Haiti; Gun violence everywhere; Environmental concerns

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Yasmine Matos
2	Barbara Bullock
9	Lauren Haywood Mike Roppel
10	Rosalynd Homer Nialah Montgomery
13	Amy Chouris
14	Rosamarie Lightfoot
15	Mia Moore
20	Loma Everitt
20	Karen Jackson
22	Simone Barton
25	Joanna Hollis
26	Ruth Deischer
28	Jiajin Zhou
29	Nancy Laing
30	Malisa Prisarojn

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.



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.

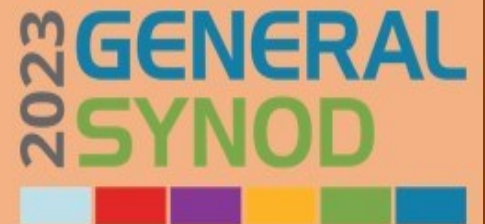
Please contact the church office for more information.

It's a BOY!



UCC 2023 GENERAL SYNOD

PASTOR SHEILA, ROSEMARIE
LIGHTFOOT AND BRANDON WERE IN
ATTENDANCE.



(Right) Brandon with Just Mercy author, Bryan Stevenson, and youth at General Synod in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Pastor Sheila and Rosemarie Lightfoot with Delegation, Staff and Guests at the General Synod.



MISSION & OUTREACH – AUGUST 2023

Greetings Council!!

Family Promise week was June 12th. Our potluck day on June 13th was a huge success. Many thanks to Jane and Judith for organizing/coordinating. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time and their culinary skills! It's all appreciated.



Our **Little Free Libraries** are a hit! We have two beautifully-made little libraries near our church entrance, and they have become a huge success for readers of all ages!



Summer Yard Sale was held on Saturday, July 29th from 8am-12noon, and the turnout was great! Thank you Jane, for organizing, and to all those who helped collect, separate, hang and tag items. The proceeds will be split between our food pantry and the church's general fund.



Food Pantry distributions have been very successful. We give away approximately 95-100 bags of food serving 280+ individuals! Our next food pantry day will be Saturday, August 5th. The pantry remains our most successful mission to-date.

CROS' Hustle to End Hunger 5K Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th. We are looking for someone to represent Union as we walk to raise money for the hungry in Palm Beach & Martin Counties. If you are interested, please see Debbie for more details.



God has placed His 'investment' in us as we remain focused, ever trusting that He will provide. *We are still on a mission!*

God Bless,
Rosemarie Lightfoot
Mission Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP – AUGUST 2023

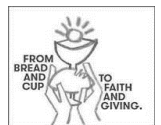
Greetings Union!

From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving is our 2022-2023 UCC Stewardship season. It is a constant reminder of the connection between God's generosity and our stewardship. Gratitude and generosity go hand-in-hand with sharing in communion and with our monetary gifts.

Monetary Gifts: It seems that some clarification is needed in regards to 'pledged giving' vs 'designated giving'. I have to admit that this had to be made clear to me a few years ago as well. **Pledged giving (or Tithing)** is when we fill out the commitment/pledge cards & make a pledge of a specified financial amount for the year. These amounts are placed, or budgeted, in the church's General Fund in order to help pay bills and continue church upkeep throughout the year. **Designated giving**, such as donations towards Missions, food pantry, & other special offerings, are monetary gifts that are *over and above* your pledged (tithe) amount. These donations are specific toward the ministries & missions themselves and not to be removed from the General Fund's pledged amounts. So, I hope this explanation helps. If you still have questions about the various types of 'giving', please do not hesitate to ask.

Galatians 6:9 ~ "So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we do not give up, or quit." No matter how you give, whether it's your time, your talent or your 10th, you help support our church and its ministries, and we truly **'thank you'**. When we have a heart to share our 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



SAVE THE DATE
October 7, 2023

Hustle to End Hunger 5K Run

Start Time: 7:30am EDT
End Time: 10:00am EDT
John Prince Park 3034 Prince Drive
Lake Worth, FL US 33461



**SAVE THE DATE:
AUGUST 13TH**

**BACK TO SCHOOL
"SUNDAE"**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023

**DURING FELLOWSHIP HOUR
ALL ARE WELCOME!**



New Music Director WAMM has interviewed several applicants for the Music Director position. To date this position has not yet been filled. A flyer advertising the position has been created and will be posted at various music store venues and other appropriate locations. The position has been reposted on Indeed. Union congregants are urged to spread the word that the Music Director position is still open. Thank you!

TRUSTEES:

Pardon the paint. Special thanks to Jane Louise Smith for her dedication.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS – AUGUST 2023

I am still in awe of how God answers our prayers. We had our summer rummage sale yesterday and my prayer was a goal of \$1,000.00. We were very close to that goal and our sister Linda made an announcement on Sunday that we were \$80.00 short of our goal, and additional donations were received today to help us go over our goal. Have faith, trust and believe, with God all things are possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our many generous financial donors that faithfully give every month. We could not do it without your financial support. I would like to thank our support team that go every month and pick up food, pack bags and distribute the first Saturday of every month. It takes a village and I thank God for this food pantry village.

There are always opportunities for additional support, financial, time and talent. Praising God for blessing this ministry. One of the many ways our church family is providing food to our community.

Thank you, thank you and thank you. Our team appreciates you.



Love wins
Debbie
Food Pantry Coordinator

MODERATOR – AUGUST 2023

Greetings Union!



– Our Senior Affordable Housing Program is still moving forward. Green Mills finally submitted our Re-Zoning application to Palm Beach County for review in June (fingers crossed that there will be no issues from the county). We should hear something in August.

– The 'yard sale' that we had on Saturday, July 29th was a huge success! Please see Debbie Chea's food pantry report for details.

General Synod – Making all things New!

“Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

I attended General Synod 34 as a first-time delegate from June 29th to July 5th in Indianapolis, Indiana. I finally got a chance to meet other Florida Conference folk in person. I was impressed at how many people were in attendance from various churches across the country – over 2000 in all, of varying ages. Each delegate was given a 'committee assignment' between 1-14 to learn about, give thought to and debate upon. My assignment was #14 which dealt with Confronting White Supremacy in our churches. It was indeed a very powerful topic. **Highlights:** *Keynote speakers, Rev. Nadia Boltz-Weber, Rev. Amy Brooks (Australia), and Rev. J.J. Flagg. *Meeting missionaries stationed in Africa, Korea & Guatemala (Global Missions workshop). *Shaking hands with Rev. Yvonne Delk, first African American woman ordained as a UCC minister in 1974. *Witnessing the installation of Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, as General Minister and President of the UCC (a historic moment – the first woman, and the first woman of African descent to lead the UCC). *One very special surprise for me was seeing my former Pastor, Rev. Robb Kojima and his wife Jann, from Maui, HI! Wow! These were definitely awe-inspiring moments that I will cherish.

All in all, the trip to Indianapolis for GS34 was well worth it, and I'm looking forward to Kansas City in 2025!!!

Faithfully Submitted,
Rosemarie Lightfoot – Moderator

YOUTH & KIDS PAGE

UNION'S SUMMER MUSIC & ARTS CAMP!



SUMMER MUSIC & ARTS CAMP

On July 15th and 16th, Union held a Music and Arts Camp. On Saturday, July 15, all participants learned worship songs. On Sunday, July 16, they performed these songs during worship service. During Fellowship Hour an Intergenerational Arts and Crafts activity was held. Following Fellowship Hour, a pool party was held.

Estelle Fanucci,
Chair of WAMM Ministry

"HELLO" FROM WASHINGTON STATE





August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	2 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	3 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	4 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	5 Food Pantry 9am-12pm FEED THE HUNGRY
6 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Communion Sunday	7	8 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	9 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	10 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	11 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	12
13 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Back to School "Sundae"	14	15 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	16 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	17 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	18 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	19
20 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Pastor Away preaching MV	21	22 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	23 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	24 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	25 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	26
27 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	28	29 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	30 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	31 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open		

UNION GOES TO WASHINGTON D.C.



Eight adults and four youth attended a trip to Washington D.C. from June 20 - 22. Highlights of the trip included the African American Museum of History and Culture, Capitol Hill for Lobby Day, National UCC Headquarters, a National Mall Bus Tour, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and a performance at the Kennedy Center World Stage.

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

Hot Summer News Especially for You:

