

UNION TIDINGS

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

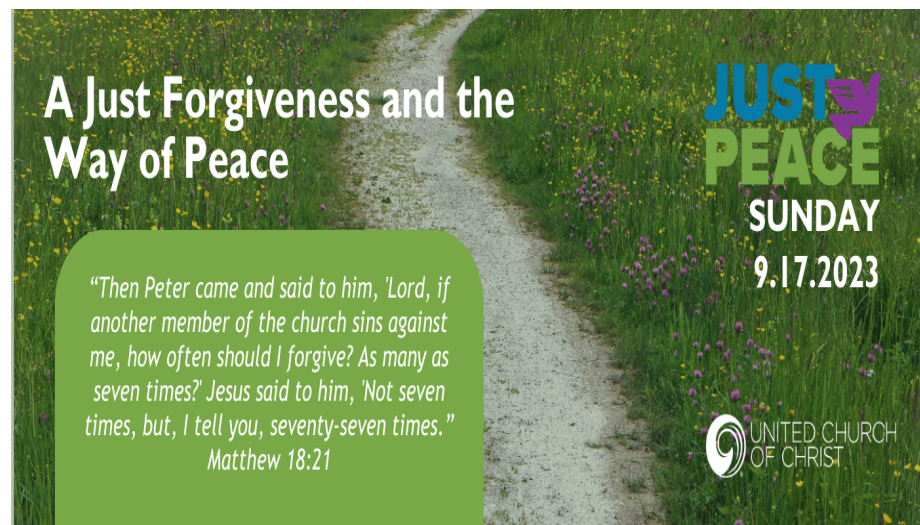
Volume 130, Issue 8

September 2023

THE CARING CHURCH

On September 19th, we will celebrate Just Peace Sunday, and acknowledge God's call upon us to love one another by showing that we care. We will join with congregations around the country in marking Just Peace Sunday using the theme, "A Just Forgiveness & the Way of Peace."

At this time, we will acknowledge our relationship with God by being the church together week after week, either virtually or in person. We will also acknowledge our being part of the justice and peace efforts as the United Church of Christ in Florida. And while we have been faithful to God, and ourselves, we will also acknowledge our faithful service to those near and far, in the ways that we seek to give of our time, talent, and treasure to support the ministries of the church and to help those who are in most need.



It is important to note that we can demonstrate caring hearts towards ourselves and others because we have seen time and time again, that God cares. We see that God cares with each sunrise and sunset. We see that God cares with each breath taken. We see that God cares with each moment of grace given.

So, as we seek God's strength and guidance to show love and care continuously, let us also join in singing praises with the psalmist who says:

*I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber;
Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD watches over you-- the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
The sun and the moon will not harm you day or night.
The LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life;
The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forever.*

*May we continue to seek God's love and care to guide us forward in our daily lives. May it be so.
Amen.*

*With Christ's Love,
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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Michelle Combs
- 4 Jane Louise Smith
- 8 Ajani Blake
- 14 Robert Harold
- 15 Felicia Hernandez
- 16 Steve Ventimiglia
- 17 Jody Kistenmacher
- 20 Amy McMath
- 21 Cunny Burgos
- 25 John Webster
- 25 Charlene Buck
- 26 Shirley Brozeman
- 26 Bruce Menning
- 28 Amy Dickinson
- 29 Simone Shah

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 \$40. 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 \$40 arrangement home.



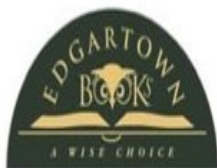
Please remember Union Congregational United Church of Christ in your Will and Estate Planning.

Please contact the church office for more information.

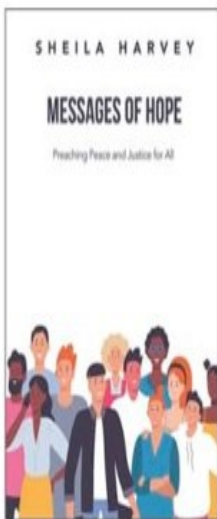
A special Thanks to all who participated in the Synod "Table Talks" led by Rosemarie Lightfoot and Pastor Sheila!



Pastor Sheila was invited to preach at Martha's Vineyard and held a book signing event at The Edgartown Books!!



Author Book Signings At the Store



Register today for the 2023 Annual Gathering of the Florida Conference

Now is the time to gather the church and to celebrate and recommit to our shared covenant as The United Church of Christ in Florida comes together in Orlando, Oct. 12-14. Registration options: \$125.00 (full) \$70.00 (no banquet)

Register at: www.uccfla.org.



TRUSTEES:

Special thanks to Jane Louise Smith for painting the hallway and for her artwork. She did a wonderful Job!





Greetings Union!

From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving is our current UCC Stewardship theme. It is a constant reminder of the connection between God's generosity and our stewardship.

Did you know?

Pledged giving (or Tithe) 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 fund all the Ministries of the Church.

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.

Galatians 6:9 ~ "So let us not grow weary in well-doing. For in due season, we shall reap if we faint not." No matter how you give, whether it's your time, your talent or your 10th, you help support our church and its ministries; **'thank you'**. When **we** share our blessings, there are no limits to how **we** can make a difference. ~ *'From Bread & Cup to Faith & Giving!'*

God Bless,
Rosemarie Lightfoot
Stewardship Chairperson



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

The vision of the Fellowship Board is to provide nourishment for the body and soul and time to interact. Our after-worship hour has been very exciting, with lots of meaningful interactions and celebrations as an intergenerational group.

The fellowship Ministry teams up with the monthly host ministry to decorate and engage in delightful Sunday events. The combination of Members and Friends preparing/providing theme related foods and sweet treats makes our meeting times so much more fulfilling.

July celebrations included Birthdays of the month, an indoor picnic style event celebrating 4th of July, and in conjunction with Christian Education Vacation Bible School culmination was a Luau which included Hawaiian styled foods and treats, along with music, arts and crafts for all ages.

We're looking forward to celebrating with the youths in their back-to-school preparation.

Greetings Union!!

- **(FP)** Executive Director, Dr. Tomara Mays, was a guest in our worship service on Sunday, August 13th. FP is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping homeless families in our community regain their independence. Currently in Palm Beach County, there are nearly 2000 homeless children registered in our county schools. A newer program that Dr. Mays informed us about is their Culinary Training Program. It is designed to assist youth with specialized short-term training to prepare them for future employment. Dr. Mays also spoke very highly of Union for the support and volunteerism our church has shown to their program over the past few years. Many thanks to Jane and Judith for keeping us connected.
- **Food Pantry** distributions remain successful. In August, we distributed 91 bags of food, which helped 300 individuals. Our last food pantry day was Saturday, September 1st. A total of 93 bags were handed out which help feed 285 people. Our mission is still the same: 'to stomp out hunger in WPB, one family at a time'. Thank you to all the volunteers who help make this possible.
- **Emergency Relief** is ongoing for the community of Lahaina, on the island of Maui, HI. The devastating wildfire destroyed an entire city and left a lot of people homeless. Richard and I lived on Maui for seven years and visited Lahaina quite often. As one of our Hawaiian friends said recently, *"We are all still hurting deep down inside."* Donations will be sent to the Hawaii Conference and distributed families most impacted. 'Mahalo' in advance for your 'kokua'.
- **Neighbors in Need** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion here in the United States. This offering will be collected on Sunday, October 1st as part of World Communion Sunday. More information will be provided in your bulletin.
- **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. Let us remain focused and trust that He will provide.

We are still on a mission!



God Bless,
Rosemarie Lightfoot, Mission Chairperson

FAMILY PRPOMISE NEWS

Union was pleased to host Dr. Tomara Mays, Executive Director of Family Promise of North Central Palm Beach County, on August 13th. Union has been a host church for Family Promise for close to 15 years. Dr. Mays shared that Family Promise is currently housing 6 families, a total of 19 children, in need of a home.

If you would like to assist with Family Promise – please let us know! Our next grocery/dinner date is December 12th. In the meantime, if you would like to donate any items from their wish list – please bring them to church and deliver to Judith Mooers or Jane Grandusky.

Wish List Items

Diapers – All sizes

Wipes

Toothpaste

Bar Soap

Used pots and pans

Razors

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Deodorant



SENIOR HOUSING UPDATE

The Senior Housing Team received word that our developer, Green Mills, has applied for re-zoning of the church property with Palm Beach County Re-Zoning Department. If approved, this will allow for multi-unit use of the property. Union expects to host community meetings with our neighbors sometime in the next few months. Green Mills will explain the project and answer questions to gain community support at these meetings. Getting our community approval of this project is important and we hope our church members will help with this part of the process. Especially those who live close by. Our Senior Housing team, John Webster, Estelle Fannuci, Rose Lightfoot, Steve Gudernatch and Jane Grandusky will keep you posted as the re-zoning process proceeds.



MODERATOR – SEPTEMBER 2023



Greetings Union!

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.”

Thank you to everyone who participated in the GS table talks during fellowship time in August! The compassion and concern voiced during these talks was very enlightening. It also let me know that people still care about what's going on in our communities, in our state, in our country and in our world.



PS – All GS delegates received a copy of the “Afro-Christian Convention” (The Fifth Stream of the UCC) from Rev. Vertigan as a gift and remembrance of the event.

Happy Hour for Moderators – In August, I attended a happy hour Zoom event for moderators hosted by Rev. Vertigan (FL UCC Conference Minister). The idea was to have a meet & greet of moderators from various churches within our state's conference to voice our concerns, ask questions or offer advice to each other. We realize that although each church is run differently, we have quite a few similarities. I always learn something in these Zoom sessions, and it also makes me proud to be a member of Union!



Faithfully Submitted,

Rosemarie Lightfoot – Moderator

SAVE THE DATE

October 7, 2023

Hustle to End Hunger 5K Run

Start Time: 7:30am EDT

End Time: 10:00am EDT

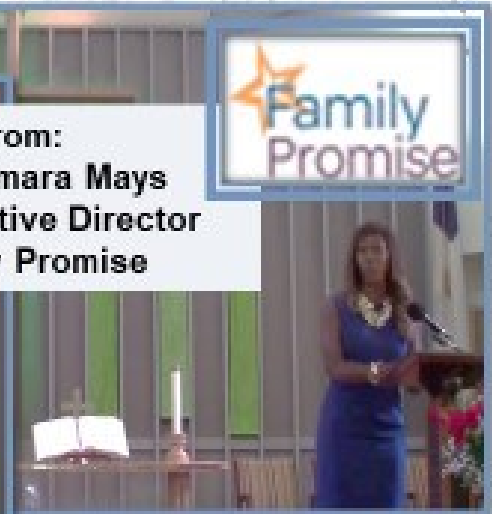
John Prince Park 3034 Prince Drive
Lake Worth, FL US 33461

BACK TO SCHOOL "SUNDAE" AT UNION!

PRAISE TEAM



Visit from:
Dr. Tomara Mays
Executive Director
Family Promise



Special Prayer During Worship
Sunday, August 13, 2023





September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Communion Sunday	4	5 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	6 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	7 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	1 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	2 Food Pantry 9am-12pm 
10 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Praise Team	11	12 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	13 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	14 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	15 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	16
17 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Just Peace Sunday Youth Mission - Food Pantry	18	19 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	20 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	21 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	22 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	23
24 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	25	26 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	27 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	28 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	29 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	30

A Just Forgiveness and the Way of Peace

JUST
PEACE

SUNDAY

9.17.2023

"Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'"

Matthew 18:21



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sweet September News Especially for you:

