

# UNION TIDINGS

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

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## UNION JOINS WITH THE WIDER CHURCH TO PRAY AND ACT ON BEHALF OF GOD'S CHILDREN

*It is with deep prayer, love, and hope that Union joins with our sister churches in the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ in an open letter to our Florida neighbors. Below is an excerpt of the letter.*

*“The United Church of Christ (UCC) in Florida has been a part of the faith community in FL since 1884 and a part of our nation since its very beginning. Our faith is rooted in scripture and Jesus’ commandment to ‘Love our neighbors as we love ourselves’ (paraphrase Luke 10:27). Our commitment to education began with our denominational ancestors, who were founders of Harvard College, seminaries, and other institutions of higher learning, including six Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) and more recently, New College.*

*In addition to supporting institutions of higher learning, we are also invested in supporting our children and youth through public education. It is our love for and our commitment to our children that compels us to write regarding the new education policies being enacted in our state. Again, we follow the words of Jesus, who said, “Let the children alone let them come to me. The kin-dom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (The Inclusive Bible). This is often interpreted as a reminder to value the qualities of children and to be open and accepting towards everyone, regardless of their age or status. It also serves as a call to nurture and protect the young ones, allowing them to grow and develop freely, as well as an invitation to welcome the most powerless among us. We believe that love of neighbor means supporting the autonomy of one’s faith and education, honoring the dignity of all, and promoting inclusion are ways of defining the beloved community.”*

*“Let us work together to create a beloved community where every child grows up with an understanding and appreciation for the diverse tapestry woven throughout history. In the words of Jesus, “Let the children come.”*

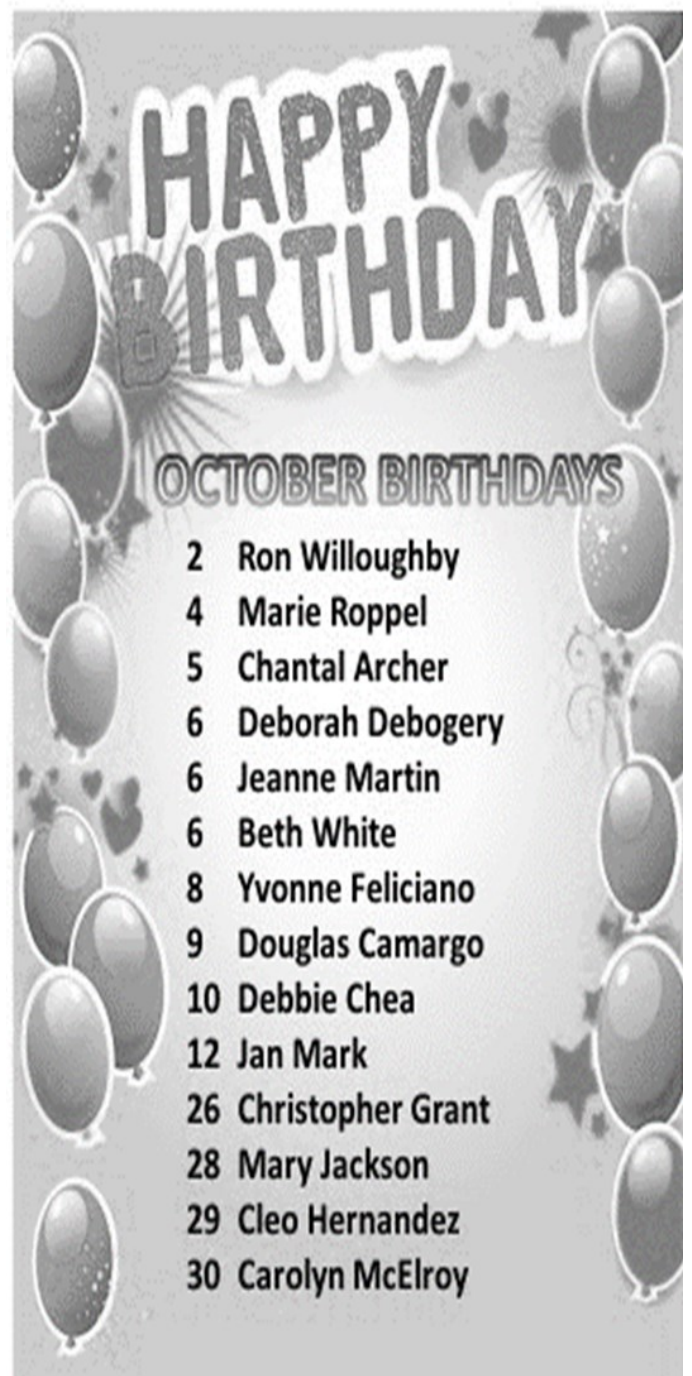
*The full letter will be presented during the Annual Gathering of the Florida Conference in Orlando, from October 12 – 14, 2023. A group from Union will be present to offer our collective support.*

With Gratitude for Our Family of Faith,  
Pastor Sheila





George Gerson's friends, Diane & Timothy Scott; Wayne Johnson; Bonnie Avery; Karen's friend, Kris; Terry Williams's, sister Barbara; George Gerson's nephew, Glenn; Melanie's recovery; Ada Harvey's family; 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; Judith's nephew, Ramine; Charles Rodriguez; Gail Fei's daughter, Debbie; Nancy Reser's daughter, Lori; Dottie Boswell; Marjorie Hanson; 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; Wildfires in Maui, HI, Florida



- 2 Ron Willoughby
- 4 Marie Roppel
- 5 Chantal Archer
- 6 Deborah Debogery
- 6 Jeanne Martin
- 6 Beth White
- 8 Yvonne Feliciano
- 9 Douglas Camargo
- 10 Debbie Chea
- 12 Jan Mark
- 26 Christopher Grant
- 28 Mary Jackson
- 29 Cleo Hernandez
- 30 Carolyn McElroy

**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](mailto: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.**

# WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY AT UNION!

UNION'S NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR,  
DONYA LANE!



## STEWARDSHIP – OCTOBER 2023



*Genesis 1:31 ~ “God saw everything made and indeed, it was very good!”*

Our upcoming Stewardship theme is *“Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives.” This makes the connection between a donor’s generosity and the ministry and mission of our congregation.* God sees and understands us as individuals. How we are connected to everything and everyone else can be transformative and help change lives. As a UCC congregation, we are attentive and caring in guiding people to receive God’s love in a variety of ways - through preaching, worship, teaching, sharing love and practicing hospitality. *Our church changes lives!*

### 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.

Beginning Sunday, October 1st through Sunday, November 19th, our ministry chairs will give an overview (stewardship moment) of their ministry. These eight (8) Sundays are integral to our new stewardship season and also will coincide with our 129th Church Anniversary Celebration and Luncheon! Union, we have much to be thankful for!

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

~ *‘Because of You, Our Church*  
God Bless,  
Rosemarie Lightfoot  
Stewardship Chairperson



## MISSION & OUTREACH – OCTOBER 2023

**Food Pantry** distributions remain successful. In September, we distributed 93 bags of food, which helped feed approximately 285 individuals. Our next food pantry day will be Saturday, October 7th. Our mission remains 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. Please continue to help our 'ohna' in distress. Richard and I feel the pain first-hand, because we 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 taken through our church will be sent to the Hawaii Conference of the UCC and distributed accordingly to those 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 was collected on Sunday, October 1st as part of World Communion Sunday. A total of the offering is not yet available. We appreciate all those who gave!

**CROS' Hustle to End Hunger 5K Walk** is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th. We will have a table set up and 'walkers' in place to represent Union as we walk to raise money for the hungry in Palm Beach & Martin Counties.



God has placed an 'investment' in us. Let us remain focused and trust that God will provide.

*We are still on a mission!*

God Bless,  
Rosemarie Lightfoot  
~ Mission Chairperson

## **Bible Study Fellowship – All are Welcome!**

**BECAUSE OF YOU OUR CHURCH CHANGES LIVES.**

Our Youth will join with Pastor Sheila in leading an intergenerational Bible Study during Fellowship Hour on **Sunday, October 22nd**. Please mark your calendars. All are welcome to engage in the discussion.

## TRUSTEE UPDATE

Your Safety is Important!

The Trustees had a discussion at our September meeting about the security of our members during worship and the security of our campus at all times. A decision was made at that meeting to add security cameras around the inside and outside of our campus. In addition, a committee will be set up in conjunction with the Council to develop an Emergency Security Plan for our members to follow in the event we have an emergency during our worship time. Currently, the Trustees are looking for expert assistance with this plan. Once all the cameras are in place we will let everyone know. Right now, we do have a security camera in our narthex showing the Deacon on watch the front door area. For everyone's safety, the Deacons have a policy to lock the front doors at 10:15 am on Sunday mornings. Our goal is for everyone to feel safe and secure during our worship time.

## SENIOR HOUSING UPDATE



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Tuesday, October 17th**  
**6-7:30 PM**

Our affordable Senior housing project is moving right along! As has been mentioned in prior updates, Union will be hosting a Community Meeting Tuesday, October 17th, from 6-7:30 PM.

As noted before, the purpose of the Community Meeting is to inform Union's neighbors about the Affordable Senior Housing Project that will be created on our property. Our community will be able to hear about the project and ask questions. Alex, from JMorgan (landscape developer), will be on hand to answer questions and explain the project.

Our Senior Housing Team hopes that members (particularly if you live in the nearby neighborhood) will be able to attend this important community meeting.

# PEACE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS ASSEMBLY

Join PEACE for our first Palm Beach County Sheriff Candidate Forum!  
We will also give updates on our affordable housing and mental health campaigns.

Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm  
Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church  
801 8<sup>th</sup> St., West Palm Beach 33401



Doors open at 6:45pm  
Questions? Contact our PEACE staff  
at [paige@peacepbc.org](mailto:paige@peacepbc.org)

*thank you*



Thank you to all who participated in the:  
**Hustle to end hunger run/walk!**

*Hustle to End*  
**HUNGER 5K**

# YOUTH & KIDS PAGE



Union's newest addition... Baby Ezrason! How nice to finally meet him.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & YOUTH MISSIONS CALENDAR

- SEPTEMBER 24TH – Food Pantry with Debbie Chea
- OCTOBER 22ND - Blessing Bags with Jane Grandusky & Pizza Party
- NOVEMBER 3&4 – Florida Youth Conference Activity
- NOVEMBER 5TH - Silent Auction Basket-making with Deborah DeBogory
- DECEMBER 17TH - Christmas Party/Caroling at Senior Center with Pastor Sheila



H	H	H	H	H	H	H
X <sub>6</sub>	X <sub>7</sub>	X <sub>8</sub>	X <sub>9</sub>	X <sub>10</sub>	X <sub>11</sub>	X <sub>12</sub>
13	14	15	16	✓ <sub>17</sub>	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT REV. MICHAEL ANN OR DONNA MINOTT.

# October 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>1</b> Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming World Communion Sunday Deacons Ministry Moment	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>4</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>5</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>6</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>7</b> 7am Cros Walk Food Pantry 9am-12pm 	
<b>8</b> Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Trustees Ministry Moment	<b>9</b> 6-8:30pm PEACE training	<b>10</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>11</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>12</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>13</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>14</b>	
<b>15</b> Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Christian Education Ministry Moment	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours 6-7:30pm Prayer Room open Senior Housing Community Meeting	<b>18</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>19</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>20</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>21</b>	
<b>22</b> Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming M & O Ministry Moment Youth Mission & activity Bible Study Fellowship!	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>25</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>26</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>27</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>28</b> 1pm Bunco –Lunch	
<b>29</b> Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming WAMM Ministry Moment	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open		<b>UCC 2023 Annual Gathering of the Florida Conference</b>			
<b>UCC Historic GMP Installation, Cleveland, OH</b>							

# UNION'S AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING COMMUNITY MEETING



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 6-7:30 PM  
UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
5088 SUMMIT BLVD, WEST PALM BEACH, 33415

**The Community Meeting is to inform Union's neighbors about the Affordable Senior Housing Project that will be created on our property. Our community will be able to hear about the project and ask questions.**

*Union Congregational United Church of Christ*  
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email: [office@unionucc.net](mailto:office@unionucc.net)

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*October News Especially for you:*

